

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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DEC 29 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Murdock School (preferred)
other names/site number Old Murdock High School

2. Location

street & number Murdock Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Winchendon N/A vicinity
state MA code 025 county Worcester code 027 zip code

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
☐ private	☒ building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ public-local	☐ district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
☐ public-State	☐ site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	☐ object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

Valerie A. Taenag
Signature of certifying official

Dec 18, 1987
Date

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain): _____

Sharon Byers

National Register

1-28-88

6. Function or Use Murdock School, Winchendon, MA

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Educational/SchoolEducational/School**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Romanesquefoundation granitewalls brickstoneroof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Murdock School, Winchendon, built in 1885-1887, is set back behind a wide, semicircular driveway on a large, open, flat lot facing Monument Park. A fenced athletic field occupies the open space behind the school. This largely isolated setting provides the Murdock School with a distinguished prospect that enhances its position as a notable local landmark in this northcentral Massachusetts highland community. The neighborhood beyond the park is substantially residential, but three other schools--the Poland (1924), Amro W. Streeter (1939), and Murdock Junior-Senior High School (1961)--are also nearby, located within one block's distance.

The Murdock School, executed in the Romanesque Revival style by prominent North Worcester County architect H. M. Francis of Fitchburg, is a study in balanced asymmetry. It is a complex plan, 2 1/2-story structure built of monochromatic brick and sandstone with a raised basement of smooth-faced granite.

The facade (east) elevation is dominated by a 2 1/2-story, center-entry pavilion with parapeted gable and square bell and clock tower, nominally counterpoised by a tall, opposite-end chimney. Granite stairs with enclosed stoop lead to the recessed entry behind a wide, semicircular arch of smooth-surfaced sandstone, with enriched molding and imposts. Fenestration on the face of the pavilion consists of 1/1 double-hung sash. Blind transoms, surmounted by shaped sandstone lintels, decorate end windows on the first and second levels. A stepped, molded sandstone course leads to the sill of the four-part window, with fixed pane transoms, centered over the entry. Continuous, smooth sandstone trim with embossed letters identifying the school and its date of construction separates the second and third levels of the pavilion. An enriched molding, sided by grotesques, underlies the sill of the arcaded, four-part window with semicircular transoms that lights the top floor. Romanesque colonettes support the arches in which ornamental faces join the molding. A sandstone gable, surrounding the transom of the third floor window, interrupts the weathering on the clock tower and echoes a

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similar treatment to the pyramidal roofline above the clock face. The facing of the tower is decorated with continuous sandstone bands, patterned brick, corbeling, crockets, plus serial arches and recessed panels. Clock faces above the belfry are set in sandstone panels and surrounded by archivolt molding that springs from corner pilasters. Three slit windows have a sill of continuous sandstone trim and are topped by rusticated sandstone blocks, leading to the peak of the gable capped by a sandstone cornice with crockets. The tall chimney stack mimics the clock tower in diminutive form by utilizing similar patterns in its enriched facing, corbeling and elaborate copper cap. The remainder of the facade, which sides the entry pavilion, consists of symmetrical, two-story, two-bay sections, with 6/6 double-hung sash windows.

Asymmetrical side (north and south) elevations imitate the facade with entries recessed behind Romanesque arches in similar central bays with parapeted gables and tall, square chimney stacks that simulate the clock towers on a small scale. Nearly identical, the north elevation is distinguished from the south only by the addition of 1 1/2-story hexagonal stair tower, which partially fills the corner of the rear ell. On each side elevation, the stair bay above the entry is defined by three narrow, stepped windows with 4/4 double-hung sash. Tri-part windows with semicircular transoms, slit windows, parapeted gables and chimney towers are differentiated on the second floor by a series (six on the north elevation, five on the south elevation) of narrow, 4/4 double-hung sash windows with single-light transoms. These openings demark the large assembly hall.

The rear (west) elevation of the Murdock School is centered by a chimney stack with buttresses that face the top of the back gable. Four 6/6, double-hung sash windows comprise the bays on the first level. On the second floor, fenestration is replaced by blind panels denoting the back of the assembly hall stage. Light to this area is provided by the tri-part windows that side the chimney.

The opulent interior of the Murdock School is finished with quartered oak and remains substantially intact, including the wainscoting, boxed-beam ceilings, and mantels of two classroom fireplaces. Lighting fixtures have been replaced several times as the original gas system was later electrified, then upgraded. Decorative molding in the ceiling panels of the assembly hall, visible on early photographs, is no longer extant. Two rooms on the first floor were subdivided, probably during the 1950s. One small room was separated into a principal's office and secretary's area. A classroom was divided to create a library and teacher's lounge. Otherwise, the school's plan is largely intact: on the first floor, large classrooms and offices ranged around a T-shaped corridor; on the second, three classrooms at the front of the building and, across a narrow corridor, the large assembly hall with stage.

continued

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Section number 7 Page 2 Murdock School, Winchendon, MA

Renovation, in 1974, largely involved refurbishing and refinishing efforts. Fire doors were added to corridors and several classroom doors were insensitively treated with the surface application of incompatible, plain wood panels in order to meet building codes. Exterior walls were repointed and the original slate roof was replaced with one of asphalt shingles. In the main entrance, the original paired wooden doors were replaced with modern aluminum and glass. Similar substitutes were installed on the side entries in 1986. In each case, original multipaned transoms were retained. The tower clock, manufactured by E. Howard and Company of Boston, was restored and semimechanized, in 1976, by the school's three custodians as part of the town's bicentennial celebrations. A prominent and familiar feature of the landscape, the clock tower is a practical and fond reference for many Winchendon residents.

Archaeology

The site of the Murdock School must be considered to have limited archaeological potential. While the property is located close to the Millers River, a possible fishing location, no known prehistoric sites are located in close proximity to the school. Historic archaeological potential is also limited; no previous structures are known to have existed on the site and the property was most likely open space from the time Winchendon's first settlement, ca. 1735, to the date of the school's construction, 1885.

8. Statement of Significance Murdock School, Winchendon, MA

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

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureEducation

Period of Significance

1887-1937

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Henry M. FrancisHenry G. Morse

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

The Murdock School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, workmanship, and association and meets National Register criteria A and C on the local level. The building holds associations with the development of Winchendon's educational system, with the Murdock family, which for two generations remained among the most prosperous, public spirited, and philanthropic of the town's earliest entrepreneurs, and most specifically, with Ephraim Murdock, Jr., an industrialist and real estate magnate whose will created a trust for the construction and endowment of the school. Executed in the Romanesque Revival style by H. M. Francis of Fitchburg, a leading architect in North Worcester County, the well-preserved Murdock School is also the most high style of Winchendon's school buildings.

Ephraim Murdock, Jr. (1800-1882), was the grandson of Deborah Williams Murdock (d. 1809) and James Murdock (1738-1813), who moved to Winchendon in 1766. He was the oldest son of Zebian Bixby Murdock (d. 1824) and Ephraim Murdock (1772-1853), a housewright and operator of both sleigh and blacksmith shops. Ephraim Murdock, Sr., Amasa Whitney (the owner of several mills, the most important of which was a textile factory), and Isaac Morse, who ran a tannery, currier shop and Winchendon's first hotel, were the principal businessmen in town during the early nineteenth century. The enterprises of these three men were largely responsible for promoting North (Winchendon) Village into the center of commercial activity and the cynosure of settlement in Winchendon.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Murdock School, Winchendon, MA

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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository:

MHC #184

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property two acres

QUAD-Winchendon SCALE-1:25000

UTM References

A

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Zone	Easting	Northing																

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See assessors map.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property include the school, front lawn, and driveway. Since the original 14 acres associated with the Murdock School has been diminished with the construction of a new High School and playing fields, only this immediate area is included.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Siergie, Preservation Consultant for Winchendon Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 1987

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Murdock School, Winchendon, MA

Ephraim Murdock, Sr., was one of the major builders of houses in North Village during the first half of the nineteenth century and was also the owner of considerable real estate.

In the next generation, several children of these three families intermarried. Two Murdock sons married two Morse daughters: Ephraim Murdock, Jr., married Sophia Morse and Elisha Murdock married Rhoads Morse. Two other Murdock children joined with the Whitney family: Mary Murdock wed Amasa Whitney, Jr., a merchant who operated one of the earliest stores in North Village, and William Murdock espoused Mary G. Whitney.

These three sons of Ephraim Murdock, Sr. were largely responsible for advancing woodenware manufacture to the foremost industry in Winchendon. Both Ephraim Jr. and Elisha Murdock fostered the application of machinery to the work. Much of this new equipment was devised in the plant of their brother, William, who opened the first machine shop in Winchendon in 1839. William Murdock, who invented two types of bobbins used in textile mills and improved jack spools, also perfected a lathe for turning pails, and fabricated other machinery that greatly increased woodenware production. Ephraim Murdock, Jr., and Elisha Murdock operated factories. In 1834, Elisha Murdock, considered the father of the woodenware industry in Winchendon, founded E. Murdock and Company (incorporated in 1928 as New England Woodenware, Inc.), which became the most extensive woodenware mill in the country.

In about 1836, Ephraim Murdock, Jr., established Murdock and Company, which operated two woodenware mills, one on Millers River in Winchendon Village and the other on the north branch of the river in Slab Hollow (now known as Glenallan). Murdock and Company manufactured tubs, pails and other items. In 1849, Major Sidney Fairbanks joined as a junior partner and the firm became Murdock and Fairbanks, employing about 100 workers. Ephraim Murdock, Jr., also operated pail factories in Keene and Swanzey, New Hampshire. Besides the proceeds from a successful career of more than fifty years in manufacturing, he further augmented his estate through wise investments. He accumulated considerable real estate in Winchendon and was, for years, the principal owner and president of the Cheshire Railroad.

Ephraim Murdock, Jr., also served as a Director of the Winchendon National Bank. In local affairs, he was elected to the School Committee in 1854 and the Board of Selectmen in 1846, 1850, and 1874. He served on the building committee for the new Town Hall, in 1850, and in other years was involved in committees to establish a home for the insane, and to create a new town cemetery. In 1878, he and his wife, Sophia A. (Morse) Murdock (1805-1888), erected the I. M. Murdock Building at 98 Front Street (extant) in memory of their only child, Isaac Morse Murdock (1831-1875) and donated the property to

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Murdock School, Winchendon, MA

use by the Church of the Unity. Before the Fire Station at 16 Pleasant Street was built by the town in 1876, Ephraim Murdock, Jr., provided an engine house and hall on Chestnut Street to the Alert Fire Company, the second oldest in Winchendon, organized in 1851.

Ephraim Murdock, Sr., initiated the family commitment to local education. In 1843, he erected Winchendon Academy, used as a private school without charge, by children of both sexes in Winchendon and other communities. When the town took no action in response to a state law requiring communities of 2,500 inhabitants or 500 families to provide a high school, Ephraim Murdock added a provision to his will leaving the Academy Building to the town on the condition that it be used for educational purposes. The town accepted the bequest, and in March 1854 opened the first public secondary school in Winchendon. When the Academy was determined inadequate in 1866, the Brick School (renamed the Wheeler School in 1904; demolished in 1965) was constructed and utilized as the high school until supplanted by the nominated property, the Murdock School. The Wheeler School was then converted to elementary grade use. In the meantime, the Academy Building, having fallen into disrepair, was condemned by the state inspector in 1894. A previous vote to replace the structure with a four-room schoolhouse was overridden in a special town meeting, which appropriated funds for repairs. The Academy was then remodeled from a temple-front, Greek Revival structure to the Colonial Revival appearance it retains today. Renamed the E. Murdock School in 1904, the building remained a grammar school until 1961 when both it and the Wheeler School were closed. The next year, after 108 years of scholastic service, the old academy building was turned over to the heirs of Ephraim Murdock, Sr. Today the edifice, with additions, serves as the headquarters for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Family interest in local public education extended through the next generation of the Murdock Family. Elisha Murdock, a personal friend of Horace Mann, served on the School Committee almost continuously from 1829 to 1863. Ephraim Murdock, Jr., followed his father's example. He also provided the town with a schoolhouse, in this case, the nominated property, Winchendon's third high school. In his will and that of his wife, provision was made, after specific bequests, for the creation of a trust, a major purpose of which was to allow for the construction and support of "a suitable house for a school for both sexes of scholars of not less than ten years old..." The schoolhouse was to be located within one mile of their residence at the corner of Front and Pleasant Streets (now the site of American Legion Park) on a street named in their honor and platted between 1870 and 1886. The neighborhood immediately around the school began to develop during the same period. The estate of Ephraim Murdock, Jr., at the time of his death, in 1882, was valued at more than \$500,000.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Murdock School, Winchendon, MA

The Murdock School was constructed on a 14-acre holding at a cost of \$120,000 and endowed with a trust fund of \$250,000. The land on which the school was built was purchased with monies from the Murdock Estate. Completed in 1887, the Murdock School included two large classrooms, a room "devoted to philosophical apparatus," a chemistry laboratory, a music room, an art room and a "workshop for practice and experiment." By far the most elaborate school building in Winchendon--in both its high-style Romanesque Revival design and its up-to-date facilities--the costs of the school far outstripped any other in Winchendon until the eve of the Second World War. Its music room, laboratory, and lavishly appointed assembly hall were those more likely found in a larger urban community, not one that, like Winchendon, had a population of only 4,390 in 1890. And while the Romanesque Revival was a popular style for educational institutions in northcentral Massachusetts in the last decades of the 19th century (notably the 1874 Chestnut Street School, Gardner, now demolished), none were as elaborately conceived as the Murdock School. Nor do other Winchendon examples executed in brick--for instance, the nearby Poland School (1924), the Marvin School (1905), and the Streeter School (1939)--equal the Murdock School in elaboration of design and opulence of interior. Not coincidentally, the Murdock School was the only one of Winchendon's late 19th/early 20th century public schools to be privately financed.

The Murdock School was considered by contemporaries of its designer, Henry Martyn Francis (1836-1908), to be his masterpiece. Born in Lunenburg, H. M. Francis was the son of a wheelwright and carpenter, Franklin Samuel Francis, who later became developer of a stone quarry on Rollstone Hill in Fitchburg (supplier of materials for several of Fitchburg's stone bridges).

Henry M. Francis attended Groton Academy for two years after graduating from local district schools and Lunenburg Academy. From July to November 1858, he worked on the survey for the Croton River Aquaduct, part of the New York City water supply. For two years, beginning in 1859, H. M. Francis worked in the architectural office of Alexander R. Estey in Boston, before returning to Lunenburg. He worked as a carpenter there and in Westfield and Florence before joining the Simmons Organ Manufactory in Boston. After only three months, however, he left to join the office of architect George M. Harding in Portland, Maine. Nine months later, he left to spend a year with Boston architect, George F. Meaham, then returned to Harding's office until 1868, when he opened his own business in Fitchburg. His first important commission came that same year when he was asked to design the Rollstone Congregational Church in that city.

During his active, forty-year career, Francis designed about thirty school buildings, twenty-five churches, fifteen libraries, a large number of other

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public buildings as well as several hundred residences. Among his most important structures are: Fitchburg High School Building (not extant); the Wallace Library and Art Building (demolished), the Calvinistic Congregational Church (NR 1979), Safety Fund National Bank Building, and the YMCA Building (now Shawmut Worcester County Bank), all in Fitchburg; the Universalist Churches in Fitchburg, Palmer, and Monson; the First Baptist Church in Clinton; the Congregational Church in Leominster; the Stone Church in Lincoln (NR, Lincoln Center HD, 1985); the Ingalls Library in Rindge and the Clay Library in East Jaffrey, New Hampshire; and the Dickinson Library in Northfield (NR, Main Street HD, 1982). Other school buildings designed by the firm of H. M. Francis include: Lowe Hall, Cushing Academy, Ashburnham; the Lincoln School, Leominster; Lyman School, Ashby; and Westford Academy, Westford. Other libraries designed by H. M. Francis are: Fletcher Library, Westford; Hazen Memorial Library, Shirley; Newton Library, Royalston (NR, Royalston Common HD, 1976); and the Wheeler Library in Orange. Among his commercial buildings are: the Hazen Block, Shirley; the Woods Block, Leominster (NR, Monument Square HD, 1982); and the Godfrey Hadd Block, Greenville, New Hampshire. His firm designed City Hall in Somerville and the Town Halls in Groton, Lincoln, Monson, and Orange.

Henry G. Morse (d. 1910), the builder of the Murdock School, was for many years the leading contractor and builder in Fitchburg. He was born in Sterling, the son of Joseph and Ann (Winchester) Morse, but attended public schools in Lancaster and Clinton, where he learned carpentry. He arrived in Fitchburg as a young man and after three years as a journeyman, established his own business. Earning a favorable reputation for quality work, his firm was successful from the start. H. G. Morse, contractor and builder, constructed many of the finest residences, churches, and commercial buildings in the vicinity. The Murdock School was one of several in which Morse was associated with H. M. Francis.

When the Murdock School opened on August 31, 1887, three courses of study were offered: an English and Scientific Course, which concentrated on English language and literature, History, Geometry, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry; an Academic Course, which substituted Latin, French and German for certain English courses; and a Classical or college preparatory course, which expanded the above curriculum by adding college admission requirements such as Greek and Advanced Latin. The school was supported entirely by the Murdock Trust, but was considered part of the school system under the supervision of the school committee with the consent of the trustees. Pupils from other communities were allowed to attend based on payment of tuition of \$5.00 per semester in a three-term school year. In 1889, the student body numbered 109 with a faculty of seven teachers. Photos of the interior taken at the time of the building's opening show an opulent interior, with elaborate woodwork,

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fixtures, and furnishings apparently unparalleled in other schools of the period in the region.

Income from the Murdock trust fell below the amount required for operating expenses for the first time in 1916. The town appropriated payment of the difference. Around 1920, the school became known as Murdock High School. Beginning in January of that year, the school department assumed all operating expenses after the trustees, having made all the necessary repairs, turned over to the town the remainder of the income from the fund. The next year, an Industrial Arts course was added to the academic program in hope of retaining students who would otherwise drop out. Two years later, courses in Printing and Home Economics were introduced.

The scholastic magazine Murdock Murmers was initiated in 1923 and in its early years was awarded several prizes for excellence by the Central Massachusetts Interscholastic Press Association. The Student Activity Society was established in 1923. Income from the sale of the magazine along with dues, admissions to athletic competitions, and the proceeds of other sponsored events were required to finance the athletic program, publish the paper, and support the other expenses of the Society as no item was provided in the School Budget to fund such activities.

In 1927, student enrollment at Murdock High School exceeded 200. In response to the varied needs of the increased student body, revision of the curriculum was begun. By 1936, the four-course academic program consisted of College Preparatory, Secretarial, Civic, and Vocational-Household Arts. Advanced in its facilities at the time of its construction, the school by 1945 was being seen as old fashioned and lacking the latest amenities. Among the earliest recognized deficiencies of Murdock High School was the absence of a gymnasium and other athletic facilities. In that year, the principal noted the inferiority of lighting and ventilation systems, inadequately equipped laboratories and shops, and the lack of a gymnasium at Murdock High School, which prevented the town from providing the children of Winchendon with a modern secondary education. The 1949 report of the court-appointed Master, prepared in response to the Murdock Fund Trustees' petition requesting permission to transfer the Murdock School to the Town, revealed that the school, built for a student body of 100, had an enrollment of 438. As a result of these court proceedings, Murdock High School and its fourteen-acre lot were conveyed to the town of Winchendon, in 1950, for the sum of one dollar. Right of reversion to the trustees was based on violation of the retention of the name Murdock School and continued educational use of the building for children at least ten years of age.

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During the next decade, several controversies ensued over the need for a new secondary school and the disposition of the Murdock School. The modern Murdock Junior-Senior High School, constructed on the part of the original fourteen-acre Murdock School parcel north of Grove Street, was opened in 1961 and in that year, the nominated property was closed. The seven acres now associated with the school (bounded by Murdock, Park, School, and Grove Streets) include a playing field and bleachers at the western end. Only the school and its drive and lawns, which face Murdock Street (about two acres) are included in the present nomination. A negative report from the Study Committee, appointed by town meeting in 1964 to investigate the possibility of renovating the Murdock School, was overridden by the efforts of a group of citizens determined to preserve the school.

The Murdock School was remodelled in 1974 and reopened the next year as part of a "middle school complex" in which grades six, seven, and eight vary in location between the Murdock, Poland and Amro W. Streeter Schools. Currently, the Murdock School is primarily used for eighth graders, but the large, second-floor hall is also utilized for assemblies and meetings of band and chorus.

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Section number 9 Page 1 Murdock School, Winchendon, MA

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Marvin, Rev. A. P. History of the Town of Winchendon. Winchendon: By the Author, 1868.

Proceedings and Addresses at the Dedication of the Murdock School. Fitchburg: Press of Blanchard and Brown, 1887.

Winchendon Courier, May 19, 1882 p. 2 and May 26, 1892 p. 2.

Winchendon Historical Society Museum. Vertical File. Ephraim Murdock, Jr./ Isaac Morse Murdock.

Worcester County Registry of Probate. Case 42512, Filed March 8, 1853; Case 937, Filed August 15, 1882; and Case 7764, Filed March 15, 1888.

scale $1'' = 175'$



ASSEMBLY HALL.

PHOTO NO. 13



LABORATORY.
ROOM 6 SECOND FLOOR

gnd F1
Rm6



STUDIO.

Bookkeeping - 1m
/ J. H.

PHOTO NO. 15



PRINCIPAL'S ROOM.

R_{m3}
non divided

87a-256a

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Murdock School
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC 29 1987
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-89
Date Due: 1/28/88 - 2/12/88
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-28-88
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the
National Register

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	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ 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

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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



MURDOCK SCHOOL
Murdock Avenue
Winchendon, Massachusetts

Bob Place, photographer
Spring, 1985
Robert Place, Winchendon, MA

Photograph 1 of *2*
Fascade (east elevation/south elevation)

PHOTO
by
BOB PLACE

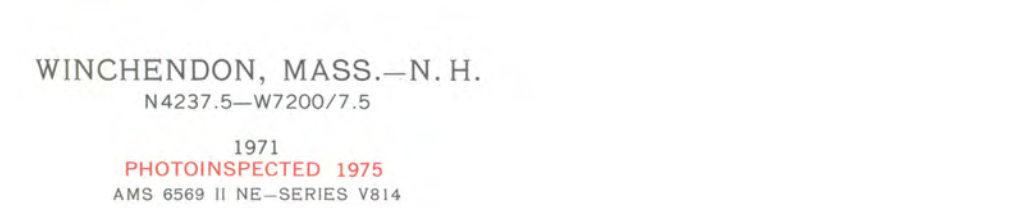


Property: Murdock School
Murdock Avenue
Winchendon, MA

Photographer: D. L. Siergiej
Date: Spring 1987
Negative: Winchendon Historical
Society

Photo No. 2 of 2

South and West Elevations



SITE PLAN

SCHOOL ST.

Chain Link Fence

Bleachers

Goal Post X

Score Board X

Bleachers

Bleachers

Refreshment Stand/
Broadcast Booth

ROW

Basketball
Backboards

Flag Pole

GROVE

MURDOCK ST.

MURDOCK SCHOOL
MURDOCK AVENUE

WINCHENDAM
MASS. (1987)

ST.

ST.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

December 18, 1987

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

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

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

Douglas, E.N. Jenckes Store, Main Street

Malden, Odd Fellows Building, 442 Main Street

Winchendon, Murdock School, Murdock Avenue

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

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure