

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



498

**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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rockport High School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4 Broadway

N/A not for publication

city or town Rockport

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts

code MA

county Essex

code 009

zip code 01966

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough

4/23/97

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson A. Beall

5/30/97

Rockport High School
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

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	
_____	_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____	_____ sites
_____	_____	_____ structures
_____	_____	_____ objects
_____	_____	_____ Total

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

N/A

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 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial
Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS: Rubber

other STONE: Granite Trim

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Rockport High School
Rockport (Essex County)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 1**7. DESCRIPTION**

The Rockport High School is a two-story brick building designed in the Colonial Revival style. The building sits on a 34,907 square foot lot which is flanked by a small park to the east and the public library to the west. There is no formal landscaping around the Rockport High School building; rather, at the front there are two very large trees along with a few shrubs set on patches of lawn flanking a central walkway. Much of the remainder of the site is paved for vehicle parking and access. The school is located on a major thoroughfare, adjacent to Rockport's central commercial district. The setting remains much as it was when the school was constructed in 1925, with open space to the east and a grassy hill rising eastward to the library beyond the parking area. On the opposite side of Broadway are two and three-story residential buildings (a number converted to commercial use) and small shops line the streets of the commercial district to the east and north.

Set on a raised basement, the school's plan is that of an inverted T, with the main block containing offices, classrooms, cafeteria, etc. and the ell containing the auditorium. The building is enclosed by a flat roof framed by a low brick parapet with concrete coping. Brickwork is trimmed with granite sills and a granite belt course above the basement. In addition, there is a broad wood cornice along the roofline. Most window openings contain modern aluminum sash but original wood double-hung sash remain at the basement (3/3, 4/4 & 6/6) and at the rear of the building lighting the two staircases and auditorium (15/15 sash). Windows are both paired (at facade) and single. The main entry is centered on the facade (south elevation). It is set on a shallow pavilion which is five bays in width. Bays of the pavilion are separated by narrow brick piers that rise to stylized wood capitals. The facade would be symmetrical except for the insertion of two very narrow bathroom windows (1/1) between the two piers just west of the main entry. The main entry contains modern aluminum double doors but retains its sidelights, transom, and wood entablature with dentils. The original granite stoop with modern iron railings leads to the entry. Flanking the pavilion are two flush brick panels covering both stories which are decorated with orange header bricks set in a diaper pattern. Side elevations are identical and symmetrically composed; each consists of 10 bays. Each bay has one window at each floor. The rear (north) elevation of the main block has less in the way of fenestration. In addition to the two large end windows lighting the stairwells, there are seven windows near the center of the second story above the auditorium block. The one and one-half story auditorium ell has three large windows on each side and a single entry centered on its rear (north) elevation. Two additional secondary entries provide access to each of the stairwells, located at the two corners where the ell meets the main block. These entries contain modern metal double doors.

(continued)

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Rockport (Essex County)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 2

Although it has been used as offices for a number of years, the interior retains many original features and the layout has been altered little. Rooms open off U-shaped double-loaded corridors which terminate at the stairwell; the two stairwells flank the auditorium ell. A few of the former rooms at the first floor have been divided into smaller offices but it appears that most of these were originally administrative offices for the school; classrooms throughout the building remain largely intact. Most of the original finishes remain, including baseboards, crown moldings, chair rails, and door and window surrounds. Most features retain the original stain and varnish treatment.

Archaeological Description

Although no prehistoric sites are recorded on the school property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. The physical characteristics of the parcel indicate locational criteria which are favorable for many types of prehistoric sites and subsistence activities. The property is generally level, well drained and located in close proximity to a marine related ecosystem, in this instance Rockport Harbor and Back Harbor. Numerous species of floral and found resources would have been available for exploitation by Native American occupants in the area. Contact Period sightings of Native peoples were also made in the Cape Ann locale by early European explorers, especially Samuel De Champlain who made several sightings of Native people in the area in 1604. In general, however, the potential for significant archaeological survivals both prehistoric and historic is low. Any prehistoric resources which may have been present on the property were likely impacted by school construction in 1925 which covers most of the lot. Given the above information, the small size of the property (less than 1 acre) and the lack of known historic landuse prior to 1925, the potential for significant archaeological recoveries is low.

(end)

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1925 - 1946

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

J. Williams Beal & Sons

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Rockport High School
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	367420	4723860			
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Beard, Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 1997
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Rockport School Limited Partnership
street & number 30 Black Horse Lane telephone 617-383-1565
city or town Cohasset state MA zip code 02025

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Rockport High School
Rockport (Essex County)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 1**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Rockport High School possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship and is significant for its association with the development of Rockport's school system. The building meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register and is of local significance.

The first school erected in what is now Rockport (formerly part of Gloucester) was built in 1725 near the center of the village. At the time only about eight to twelve families lived nearby the small log structure. In 1804 Gloucester was divided into 11 school districts, including three in what is now Rockport. As the 19th century progressed and the population steadily expanded, additional school districts were added so that by the time Rockport was incorporated in 1840 there were six school districts and seven schools (two in District 1) to accommodate the town's population of 2,650 residents. These were small one-story wood-frame structures, some noted as having hip roofs. In the mid-19th century most of these early small schools were replaced by larger facilities in the various sections of town. The older schools were sold or destroyed to make room for the new ones, some being converted to residences or businesses.

In 1855 the town elected to abolish the district school system and develop a graded system in its place. It was quickly discovered that a higher grade would be needed to accommodate the older children and in 1855 the school committee asked that a formal high school be established. An earlier high school commenced in Rockport in 1849 and was held in the vestry of the Congregational church but it was not until 1857 that a public high school was established and not until 1865 that the first public high school building was erected. This Italianate style wood-frame building still stands at the west end of Broadway. At the time the first high school was built in 1865, the town's population was roughly 3,500, 7.5 % of which were foreign born. The foreign-born population was primarily Irish and Canadian immigrants who had come to Rockport to work in the quarrying industry. Throughout most of the 19th century, fishing and quarrying dominated the economy of Rockport. In 1869 the first high school was lifted from its foundation and a lower story inserted to house the grammar school. By 1886 there were a total of 14 schools in Rockport. As the high school population increased (to its peak in 1895), the 1865 structure was further expanded and modified but remained overcrowded and outdated. By the late 19th century industry in Rockport was declining while tourism was rapidly growing. The town had become a popular destination for writers and artists as well as wealthy families who built elegant summer homes along the ocean front or stayed in the grand hotels which sprang up along the coastline. By 1895, at the peak of Rockport's population, there were 5,289 residents, 38% of whom were foreign born. In addition to the earlier Irish and Canadian

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Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 2

immigrants, there were smaller numbers of Swedish, Russian, Portuguese, English, and Scottish immigrants. In the 1890s there was a major influx of Russian, Finnish, and Swedish natives. After 1900, as the quarrying industry declined, much of the immigrant population moved out of Rockport. By 1915 the foreign-born population was 25% of the total, with the largest group being Finns; there also remained significant numbers of Swedes and Canadians. Together with the Finns, the Swedes were living primarily in the northern part of town where granite quarrying activity was located.

The town's population had declined to 4,351 by 1915 and continued to gradually slip through the first half of the 20th century. Despite the fact that the town's population was declining in the early 20th century, the need for a new high school was great as the existing high school from 1865 was overcrowded, outdated, and considered unsafe and unhealthful.

The High School remained in use until Rockport High School was constructed in 1925 to accommodate students in the upper six grades. At the time the new high school was constructed, the town's principal economic activities were fishing, small-scale manufacturing (primarily of maritime-related items), and tourism. The rapid growth in tourism led to the development of a large retail and wholesale trade in Rockport; by the mid-20th century 34% of townspeople worked in this sector. The new high school was designed by Boston architects J. William Beal & Sons, who are best known for work in Plymouth County (County Hospital and County Jail) and buildings for the Walk-Over Shoe Company in Brockton. It was built on an open site known as Broadway Park, formerly the site of the Annisquam Cotton Mill complex which burned in 1883 leaving only one building (now the library at the corner of Broadway and School Street). The Rockport High School was designed to accommodate 275 students in the upper six grades and was built at a cost of \$125,000. This was the first "modern" school built in Rockport (both in terms of its design and facilities) and was probably the largest building in downtown Rockport. A map from 1929 shows it as the largest building in the downtown area. At the time it was constructed, the building stood much as it does today, with open land to the east and a generous yard to the west.

The school included "the necessary corridors, vestibules, stairways and exits required by law, a boiler room and heating spaces with blowers conforming to the latest modern practice." The design also provided for "manual training with stock room adjacent, a domestic science room opening into a large lunch room, offices, waiting room, teachers' and physical examination room, chemical laboratory, chemical and supply closets, commercial room with typewriting room adjacent to it, one library, nine other classrooms, and an assembly hall seating 350 persons."

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Rockport High School
Rockport (Essex County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 3, 1, 1

This building remained in use as a high school until the 1960s when the high school was moved into the adjacent George Tarr School (a former cotton mill that had been converted to a school in 1904). The 1925 high school was then used as the school administration headquarters. In 1988 the town constructed a large school complex to accommodate all grades and school administration offices. The 1925 high school has been vacant since that time.

(end)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE

Rockport Town Reports: 1924, 1925, 1988

Sanborn Insurance Atlases: 1927, 1929

Gott, Lemuel & Elenezer Pool. History of the Town of Rockport (Rockport: Rockport Review Office, 1888).

(end)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Rockport town parcel 18-513 and includes 34,907 square feet. The exact boundaries are delineated on an attached map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the entire town lot that has been historically associated with the Rockport High School.

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rockport High School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/02/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/13/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/29/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/16/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000498

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 5/30/97 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Rockport High School

Rockport, MA

Photographer: Christine Beard

Photo Date: Summer 1994

Neg. Location: Tremont Preservation Services

View: Looking north showing facade

Photo: 1 of 2



SPEED
LIMIT
20

Rockport High School

Rockport, MA

Photographer: Christine Beard

Photo Date: Summer 1994

Neg. Location: Tremont Preservation Services

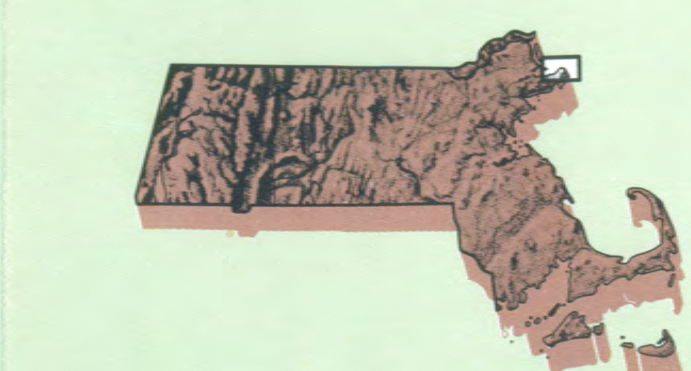
View:

Looking northwest showing facade (left)
and east elevation

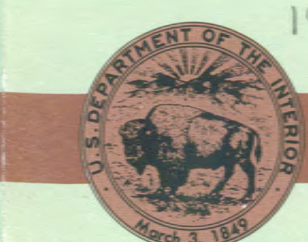
Photo:

2 of 2





- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS-NOAA, USCE, and Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1984

Supersedes Gloucester and Rockport 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1973

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13278, 13279 (1983), and 13281 (1982)

This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 4 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private subdivisions within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE SHORING SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THIS MAP COMPLETES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	Magnetic Declination		1	2	3
1	3.2808	161° 30' W		1	2	3
2	6.5617	10° 30' W		4	5	
3	9.8425	5° 30' W		6	7	8
4	13.1234	0° 30' W		1	2	3
5	16.4042	0° 30' E		4	5	6
6	19.6850	5° 30' E		7	8	9
7	22.9659	10° 30' E		10		
8	26.2467	15° 30' E				
9	29.5275	20° 30' E				
10	32.8084	25° 30' E				

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: interstate; U. S.; State
- Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Fortification: overpass; underpass
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary: National, with monument
- State
- County, parish
- Civil township, precinct, district
- Incorporated city, village, town
- National or State reservation; small park
- Land grant with monument; found section corner
- U. S. public lands survey; range, township, section
- Range, township, section line; location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery, grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: national station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Salt; mangrove
- Ochre; walled

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 23, 1997

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



Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Rockport High School, 4 Broadway, Rockport (Essex County), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property within the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Ms. Lyle Howland, Rockport School Limited Partnership
Mr. John K. Mason, Chair, Rockport Historical Commission
Mr. Michael E. Beaton, Chair, Rockport Board of Selectmen
Ms. Christine Beard, Preservation Consultant

Enclosure