

MAY 23 1985

713

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

C	226
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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

Town Wakefield

Address 7 Foster Street

Historic Name South Reading Academy

Use: Present Office

Original School

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1828-1829

Source Eaton History of Wakefield

Style Federal

Architect Adam Wiley & his father: builders

Exterior Wall Fabric Clanboard, Shingles

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

South entry to basement added. Date Unknown

Condition Fair/Good

Moved Yes Date 1891-92

Acreage Under 1 acre

Setting Faces east on narrow side street near town center.

UTM REFERENCE 19/329750/4707490

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, Mass.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates

Organization Wakefield Historical Commission

Date March 1985

#### NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The South Reading Academy building is a nearly intact example of early 19th c. school building design, modified from a residential function. It served as one of the earliest Baptist Academies in the country, and has had many public uses over the years, making it a Wakefield landmark. The building retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets ~~exception B<sub>2</sub>~~, C of the NRHP on the local level.

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

This is a good example of an early 19th c. school building which is actually an enlarged residential building turned gable end to the street. It is only 3 bays wide and 2 stories tall but is 7 bays long and its proportions are large. It has a gable roof with complete eaves returns forming a pediment which is filled with decorative shingle patterns. 6/6 sash windows have simple surrounds and ornament is focused on the recessed entry with its pilasters supporting an entablature with an unusual Federal keystone motif.

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

This may be the most often mentioned building in Wakefield's several local histories. Its significance lies in its age, its uses by important groups over a long period of time, and its symbolic link to Wakefield's past. It functioned as a school at a time when the educational level of the young was rising steadily and their numbers increasing until a high school was required. The building was put up by the First Baptist Church and Society in 1828-29 as an academy for young men and as the church meeting house. It was originally located on Academy Hill, east of Crescent Street where the Lincoln School was later built. It was only the eighth Baptist Academy ever established in the country. The number of students declined in the 1840s just when the town was recognizing the need for a public high school, so in 1847 the town bought the building for \$2,200 and used it until 1871.

In 1891 it was moved to Foster Street where it became the H.M. Warren Post #12 of the GAR Lodge, later the Methodist Church from 1938-1954 when that group's church was blown down by a hurricane in 1938. During their ownership the building was remodeled in 1942. From 1954 to 1956 the Fraternal Order of Eagles owned and used the building for its meetings. It became a restaurant in the 1970s at which time a fire destroyed much of the interior. It was recently restored for reuse as a commercial building.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Eaton, Wm. & History Committee. History of Wakefield Wakefield, 1944  
Eaton, Chester & Warren Eaton. Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary, Reading, 1896.  
Eaton, Lilley. Genealogical History of Reading, Boston, 1874  
Daily Item "Fires", Vertical File, Beebe Memorial Library.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Wakefield MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |                                                                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 71. Massachusetts State Armory<br>Entered in the<br>National Register       | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| 72. Richardson, Dr. S.O., House<br>Entered in the<br>National Register      | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| 73. Simpson, Dr. Thomas House<br>Entered in the<br>National Register        | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| <del>74. South Reading Academy</del><br>Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| 75. St. Joseph's School<br>Entered in the<br>National Register              | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| 76. Stimpson, William, House<br>Entered in the<br>National Register         | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| 77. Sweetser, Daniel, House<br>Entered in the<br>National Register          | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| 78. Sweetser, Michael, House<br>Entered in the<br>National Register         | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| 79. Temple Israel Cemetery<br>Entered in the<br>National Register           | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |
| 80. Tilton, D. Horace, House<br>Entered in the<br>National Register         | for Keeper <u>Shelove Byer</u> 7/6/89 |
|                                                                             | Attest _____                          |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY South Reading Academy  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Wakefield MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/23/89                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000713

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    7/6/89 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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



7 FOSTER ST.

C 226.

South Reading Academy

Wakefield MRA, Ma

# 7 FOSTER STREET



SCALE: 1" = 80'



REVISED 1987

Scale: 1 inch equals 80 feet

STREET

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300