

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	321

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried
property and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg
Organization Mass. Historical Commission
Date July, 1985
North Adams Quadrangle
UTM reference: 18/654070/4729550
(Staple additional sheets here)

Town North Adams MRA

Address School Street

Historic Name Johnson School

Use: Present School

Original School

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1896

Source Date block

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect Edwin Thayer Barlow

Exterior wall fabric brick, granite,
sandstone

Outbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates) Metal

and glass doors replaced original, ca.

1970: two-story addition on north side, 192

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting The school stands on a hill over-
looking the central business district.

Surrounding the school are late nineteenth
and early twentieth century residential
buildings.

OCT 25 19

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

This building is important as the work of Edwin Thayer Barlow, the city's preeminent late 19th architect. The school remains substantially unaltered with many fine architectural features. It is of brick construction and stands on a foundation of ashlar granite with a red sandstone water table. The metal roof is hipped with pedimented wall dormers delineating symmetrical entrances on the east, south, and west elevations. The principal (south) elevation is nine bays wide with a three-bay center section that is slightly recessed. The entrance vestibule is behind a round arch of red sandstone and terracotta capitals with foliate designs. Red sandstone is also used for the lintels and sills of

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

The Johnson School is historically important as the last surviving neighborhood school in North Adams. It was constructed in 1896, a period when the city's population was growing very fast and many new residential neighborhoods were being created. By 1900, the Johnson School was one of 14 neighborhood schools in North Adams. It was built for grades three through nine, with over 300 students and eight teachers. The Johnson School District consisted of Houghtonville Street and both sides of Marshall, Brooklyn, and Liberty Streets. The hilly Houghtonville area, known in the late 19th century as Brooklyn, was a neighborhood of single- and two-family dwellings whose middle-class residents worked in the mills below. Although still used as a grade school, a declining population puts the building's future in doubt.

Criteria for Evaluation

The Johnson School, a well-preserved and finely detailed example of the Romanesque Revival style by a well-known local architect, retains integrity of setting, design, location, materials, workmanship, and feeling, as well as associations with North Adams' late 19th century growth. The building thus fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Original drawings, City Engineer's Office, North Adams, MA
North Adams and Vicinity, H.G. Rowe, No. Adams, 1898.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
North Adams	321
Property Name: Johnson School	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance, continued

the window on either side and directly above, as well as for the coping on the dormer.

Segmental-arch windows, a decorative frieze, and an overhanging cornice distinguish the three bays on either side of the center section. The north and south elevations are five bays wide and have simialr decorative treatment. A 1924 addition, designed by Springfield architect Newton C. Bond, is sympathetic to the original design in that it is constructed with similar building materials.

The interior of the school is also largely intact. Original oak woodwork can be found throughout the building. This includes the wainscotting, the door and window trim, the staircase and, on the third floor, an assembly hall complete with a stage. The assembly hall also has the original maple flooring and a skylight. Metal ceilings, cast iron radiators, and mobile wooden coatracks are also present in the building.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

For NPS use only

received

9/12/85

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName North Adams MRA
State Bershire County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Hathaway Tenement

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 10/25/85

Attest

12. Johnson School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 10/25/85

Attest

13. Johnson Manufacturing
CompanyEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 10/25/85

Attest

14. Norad Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 10/25/85

Attest

15. Sherman, William B.,
FarmEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 10/25/85

Attest

16. Sykes House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 10/25/85

Attest

17. Wells House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 10/25/85

Attest

18. Phelps House

S. Review

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest

85003416

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Johnson School (North Adams MRA)
Bershire County
MASSACHUSETTS

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

Entered in the
National Register

Working No. SEP 12 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/10/85 10/27/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-25-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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



Johnson School
School St. *MRA*
North Adams, Mass.
West elevation.
Photo by R.Reed, 1983.
Negative at NAHC



Johnson School
School St.
North Adams, Mass. *MRA*
Southwest view.
Photo by HCRC, 1978.
Negative at NAHC



Johnson School

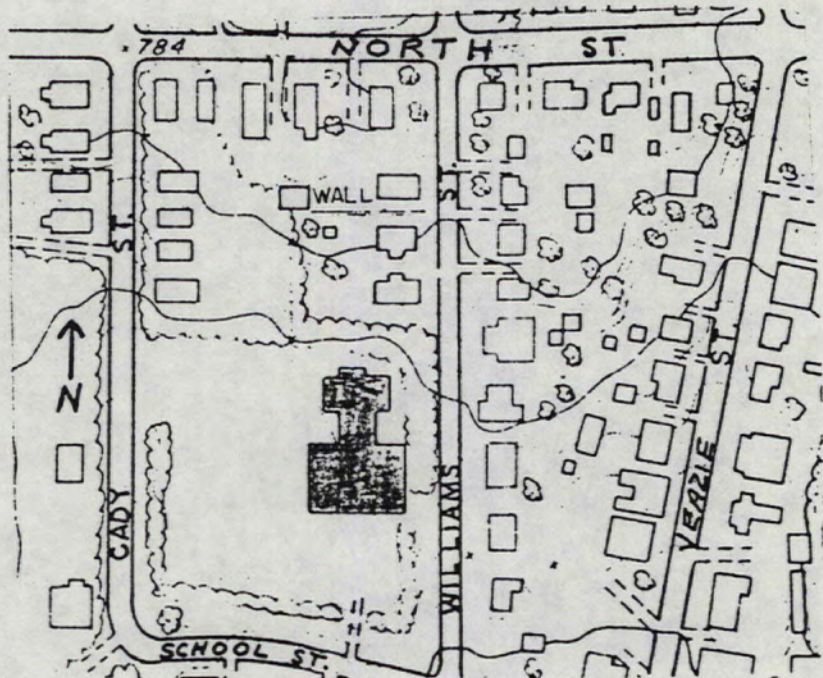
School St.

North Adams, ^{MA} Mass.

Detail, south entrance.

Photo by R. Reed, 1983.

Negative at NAHC



Johnson School
School Street
North Adams, Mass.
North Adams MRA

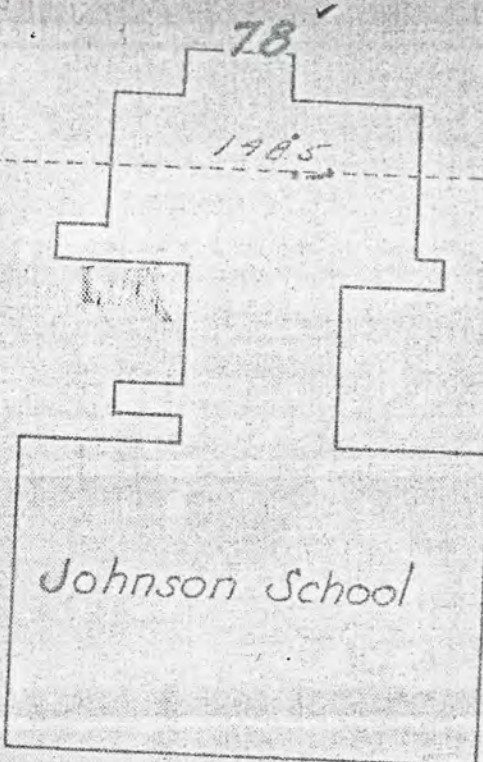
Sketch Map

148.5 Deed
School Survey 156.45

72
✓

148.5 Deed
School Survey 157.25

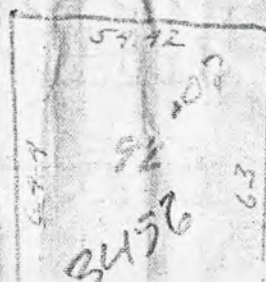
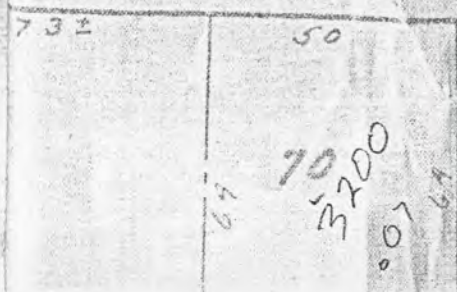
CITY OF NORTH ADAMS



71
✓

71-72 E 79
A.M. OUT

SCHOOL



Johnson School
School Street
North Adams MRA
North Adams Assessors' Map
ca. 1915

1"=40'