

707

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREAFORM NO.

C

214

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 WakefieldAddress Main StreetHistoric Name Massachusetts State ArmoryUse: Present Civic CenterOriginal Armory

DESCRIPTION

Date 1913Source History of WakefieldStyle Neo-ClassicalArchitect NAExterior Wall Fabric BrickOutbuildings NoneMajor Alterations (with dates) Gym
addition west c. 1913Condition fairMoved NA Date NAAcreage under 1 acreSetting Faces east on raised corner 1UTM REFERENCE 19/329880/4707300USGS 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)

A fine example of the Neo-Classical style, the Massachusetts State Armory building represents 3 centuries of Wakefield's military history. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets criteria 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 two story, nine bay, brick building with a two story protico on its east facade supported on four full height columns. Neo-Classical in style, the building has a stone watertable and cornice with modillion blocks. Windows on the first floor have exaggerated keystones. A parapet wall above the cornice has a non-historicizing stucco panel motif.

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

The history of the Massachusetts State Armory Building is a part of the much longer military history of Reading, South Reading, Wakefield. The first military corps was established in Reading in 1644 and was called the Reading Infantry Company. It was disbanded in 1840. Meanwhile the Washington Rifle Greens were organized in 1812 and lasted until 1850. The following year South Reading's best known company, the Richardson Light Guard, was organized by Dr. Solon O. Richardson. This company was called to fight in the Civil War three times.

The first armory was in the town's first town house which in 1873 was moved to the corner of Main and Salem Streets where it also served as a fire department. In 1894 a new armory was built on Main Street and the following year the Richardson Light Guard moved in. The Main Street Armory burned in 1911 and was replaced by the State with this building in 1913.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hurd, D. Hamilton (ed). History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, vol. II, Philadelphia, 1890.
Eaton, Wm. & History Committee. History of Wakefield, Massachusetts, Wakefield, 1944.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Name Wakefield MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. ~~Massachusetts State Armory~~ Entered in the
National Register

Date/Signature
for Keeper Alonso Byun 7/6/89

Attest _____

72. Richardson, Dr. S.O., House

entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Alvin Byers 7/6/89

Attest

73. Simpson, Dr. Thomas House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelton Byers 7/6/89

Attest

74. South Reading Academy

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Helene Byer 7/6/89

Attest _____

75. St. Joseph's School

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Egan 2/6/89

Attest

76. Stimpson, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Andrew Byrne 7/6/89

Attest

77. Sweetser, Daniel, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Helene Byer 7/6/89

Attest

78. Sweetser, Michael, House

Entered in the
National Register

6-keeper *Alonso Liza* 7/6/89

Attest

79. Temple Israel Cemetery

Entered in the
National Register

6 Keeper Helena Byer 7/6/89

Attest

80. Tilton, D. Horace, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelton Egan 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 NAME: Massachusetts State Armory

MULTIPLE NAME: Wakefield MRA

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: 89000707

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

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



C-214
Mass Army
Main St.

Massachusetts State Army

Worcester, MA, MA

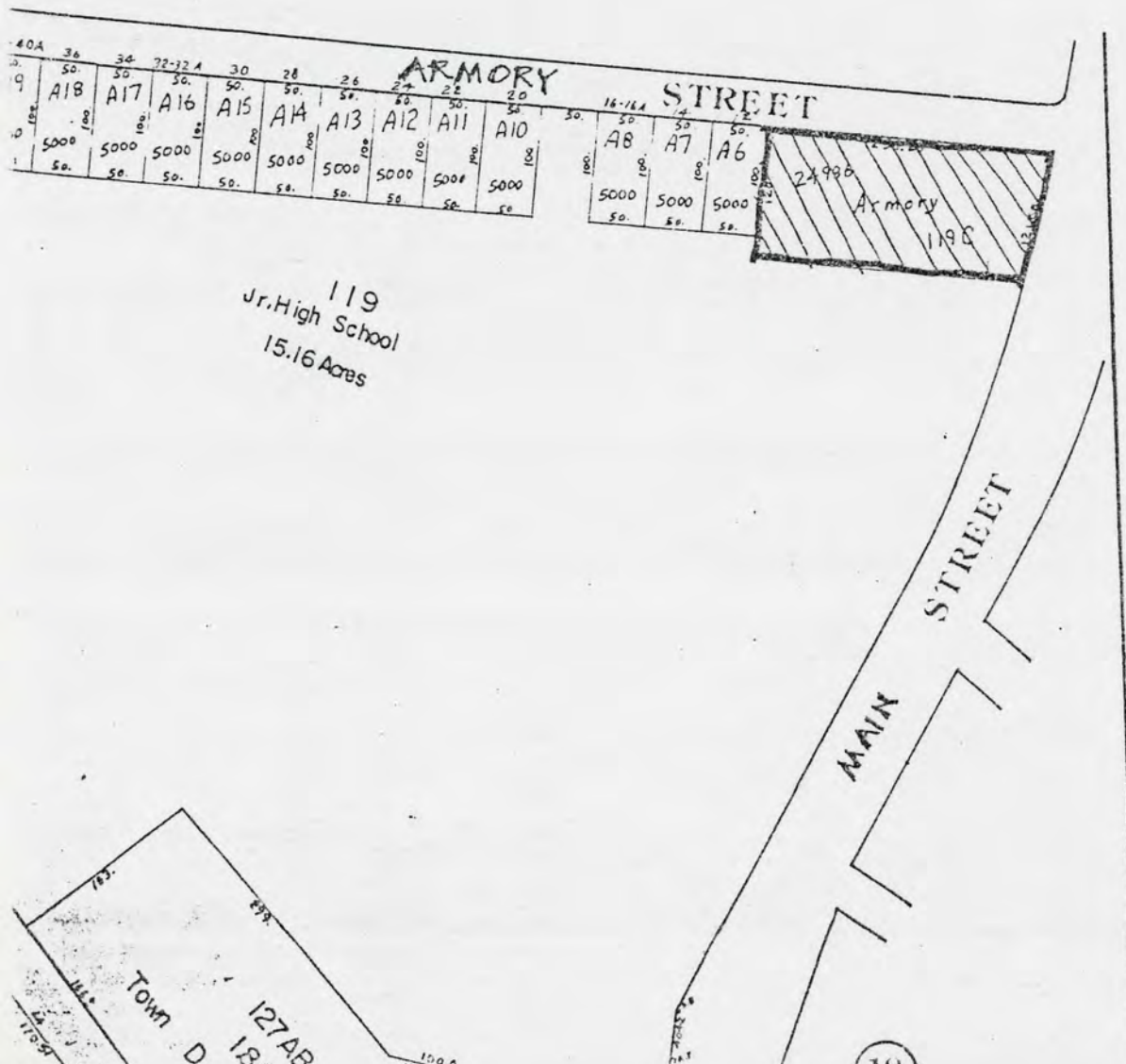
MASS. ARMORY MAIN STREET

SCALE: 1"=80'

N



Note: Lot numbers with prefix letter "A" refer to Armory Street plan.



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300