

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **SEP 9 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

RECEIVED

historic Medford High School JUL 8 1983

and/or common Old Medford High School (preferred) MASS. HIST. COMM.

2. Location

street & number 22-24 Forest Street N/A not for publication

city, town City of Medford N/A vicinity of

state Mass. code 025 county Middlesex code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Medford

street & number Medford City Hall - 85 Salem Street

city, town City of Medford N/A vicinity of state Mass.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Court House

street & number Second Street

city, town Cambridge state Mass.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #110 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street Boston state Mass. 02108

7. Description

Medford High School, 22-24 Forest Street, Medford, Mass.

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Medford High School stands north of Medford Square at the southwest corner of Forest Street and Hall Avenue. Surrounded primarily by mid-19th and early 20th century frame houses, its facade (east elevation) overlooks a semi-circular driveway and lawn with a bronze and concrete World War I Memorial. At the rear (west) elevation facing Bradlee Road, is the former Vocational School (1929) which has previously been converted to elderly housing and is not included in this nomination.

The Old Medford High School is composed of a central building (1895) that is flanked by two L-plan wings (1929, 1939) that form an open court facing Forest Street. Sharing many elements of design, proportions and materials, these three units are all three-stories high, constructed of red brick and trimmed with brown sandstone and cast-stone cornices, pilasters and belt courses.

The original high school building (now the central block of the present structure) has a symmetrical facade of seven bays flanked by projecting pavilions of three bays each. Resting on a rock-faced granite foundation, the first storey of the facade has rusticated brickwork and a central entry that is framed by Ionic columns standing in antis. Brown sandstone beltcourses divide the basement, first and second stories. Central bays of the second and third are framed by Ionic pilasters that rise to the main cornice of the building. Between these pilasters are two rectangular window openings (end bays) and five wide, arched windows with moulded surrounds and keystones. Above the third floor, the entablature's frieze is inscribed with five names: Homer, Raphael, Shakespeare, Franklin and Agassiz (obscured by vines). Above the frieze are courses of leaf-and-dart moulding, dentils and egg-and-dart mouldings which culminate in a copper cornice.

Particularly noteworthy is the central building's entrance. Approached by low steps of pink granite, the entry is set in a vestibule that is framed by a wide brownstone piers and Ionic columns standing in antis. The entrance floor is composed of stretcher bricks laid in mosaic fashion. Original panelled doors are set in a frame with multi-pane sidelights and transoms. Suspended from the entry's ceiling is the original wrought iron lantern. Sash in the original building varies in configuration by location.

North and south of the central building are additions which are characterized by classical ornamentation designed to harmonize with the original building. Rustication, belt courses and red brick construction have been carried over to these wings from the old building. The additions' facades (east elevations) feature long bands of windows containing 12/12 wood sash. Flat roofs with pedimented parapets surmount these wings, except for portions of the south wing which contain an auditorium. These additions are linked to the old building by narrow 3-bay, 3 storey connectors which provide interior access via three double doors with pedimented, classical enframements. The north and south additions' classical ornamentation is confined primarily to the Forest Street elevations of their end pavilions. The north wing (1929) exhibits a central entrance with a cast-stone cap and consoles in the manner of the Renaissance Revival. Above this entrance is a tall

(Continued)

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Continuation sheet Medford High School,
Medford, Massachusetts

Item number 7

Page 1

multi-pane arched window flanked by engaged Ionic columns and surmounted by a pedimented entablature.

The south wing (1939) has a 5-bay pavilion (east elevation) that exhibits Georgian Revival stylistic elements. At the ground storey are three entries set in cast-stone surrounds, surmounted at the second and third stories by monumental engaged Ionic columns that frame windows set in eared surrounds with moulded caps. Corners of the south wing are accented with paired Ionic pilasters. The roof line of the south wing is trimmed with a cast-stone cornice, copper crown mouldings and a brick parapet.

Rear elevations of the main building and its wings are largely utilitarian in design, consisting of evenly spaced groupings of windows (12/12) that reflect interior classroom partitions. Elements such as rusticated brickwork, belt courses and cornices are carried across rear elevations in a simplified form.

Alterations to the former high school are limited to the rear of the main building, from which a 1914 addition was removed following a fire in 1965, and the roof of the main building which was re-built at a slightly lower than original height, due to fire damage in 1965.

8. Significance Medford High School, 22-24 Forest Street, Medford, Mass.

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1895, 1929, 1939 **Builder/Architect** Hartwell & Richardson (1895)
Michael Dyer (1929, 1939)

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Medford High School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. Architecturally significant as an excellent local example of late 19th century institutional buildings in the Renaissance Revival style and designed by the prominent Boston firm of Hartwell and Richardson, it further derives historical significance through associations with the development of public education in Medford. The Medford High School thus meets criteria A, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Begun in 1895 and dedicated in 1896, the original high school building (central section of the present structure) is an outstanding local example of the Renaissance Revival style architecture, one which is noteworthy for the scale of its design, the high quality of its materials, and its association with the Boston architectural office of Hartwell & Richardson. Particularly noteworthy details are the building's rusticated and pilastered main facade with its Ionic entrance, arcaded windows, Ionic pilasters and finely carved courses of decorative details. Built at a cost of \$150,000 in 1895, the original building was designed by the noted Boston firm of Hartwell & Richardson which specialized in school architecture and public buildings during the late 19th century. Other notable buildings designed by the firm include the Belmont Town Hall and the First Spiritualist Temple (now Exeter Street Theatre), Boston. Sandstone trimmings of the original building were given by General Samuel Crocker Lawrence, Civil War Officer, rum distiller and first mayor of Medford (early 1890s). Medford's leading citizen at the turn of the century, Lawrence was known locally both as the owner of extensive real estate in Medford and as a philanthropist who donated the building of the Medford Armory to the local volunteer militia (National Guard). Dedicated on May 21, 1896, the central building originally contained 15 classrooms, science laboratories and an assembly hall.

As a result of Medford's growth as a suburb of Boston, the original brick building was nearly doubled in size in 1914 by a rear addition which contained "many classrooms, a gymnasium and an auditorium holding 1,200 pupils." The rear addition was destroyed by fire in 1965. Continued population growth necessitated the construction of a north classroom wing (1929) and later a south wing (1939) that was designed by Michael A. Dyer, architect of Medford's City Hall. Containing classrooms and a gymnasium, the south wing also possessed an auditorium, the largest in the Commonwealth at the time of its completion. Characteristic of their period, these wings are built of red brick trimmed with cast-stone details that combine elements of the Renaissance Revival and Colonial Revival styles. Together with the Medford City Hall, the wings of the High School are the finest local examples of their style.

With the exception of the south wing's auditorium, which is used for theatrical performances, the Old Medford High School has been vacant since a fire in November, 1965 destroyed its 1914 addition and portions of the central building's interior. Since 1971, the high school has been located in a new building on Winter Street.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Medford Historical Register, Vol. III - January 1900, No.1
Mustang News, November, 1965.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. Inventory Form #71, 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 172,594 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Boston North

Quadrangle scale 1: 25,000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	2	6	5	0	0	4	6	9	8	4	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	9	3	2	6	3	7	0	4	6	9	8	2	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	9	3	2	6	4	0	0	4	6	9	8	4	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes 2 lots shown as S. Pt. 2 and N. Pt. 2 on Medford Assessors' Sheet L-9. Bounded by Forest Street, Hall Avenue, Bradlee Road and neighboring lots, this property includes the High School's original parcel with the exception of a lot that was transferred to the Medford Housing Authority during the 1970s. See attached maps.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Planning Director, with Edward Gordon, Consultant to Architectural Conservation Trust (ACT)

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date June, 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Patricia L. Weslow*

8/29/83

title State Historic Preservation Officer

Massachusetts Historical Commission

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

10/6/83

John A. Allred Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Medford High School
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 9 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85

Date Due: 10/6/83 - 10/24/83

Action: ACCEPT 10/6/83

Entered in the RETURN

National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

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
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- 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

MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
100 STATE STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
TEL: 617-725-7300
FAX: 617-725-7301
WWW.HISTCOM.MA.GOV

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: _____



Property name: Old Medford High School
Street address: Forest Street
Community: Medford, Ma.

Photographer and date: J.P. Matthews, 6/17/83
Location of negative-Office of Comm. Devt.,
City Hall, Medford

Photo number 1 of 3
Description of view

Main structure from southeast



Property name: Old Medford High School
Street address: Forest Street
Community: Medford, Ma.

Photographer and date: J.P. Matthews, 6/17/83
Location of negative-Office of Comm. Devt.,
City Hall, Medford

Photo number 2 of 3
Description of view

Main structure from northeast

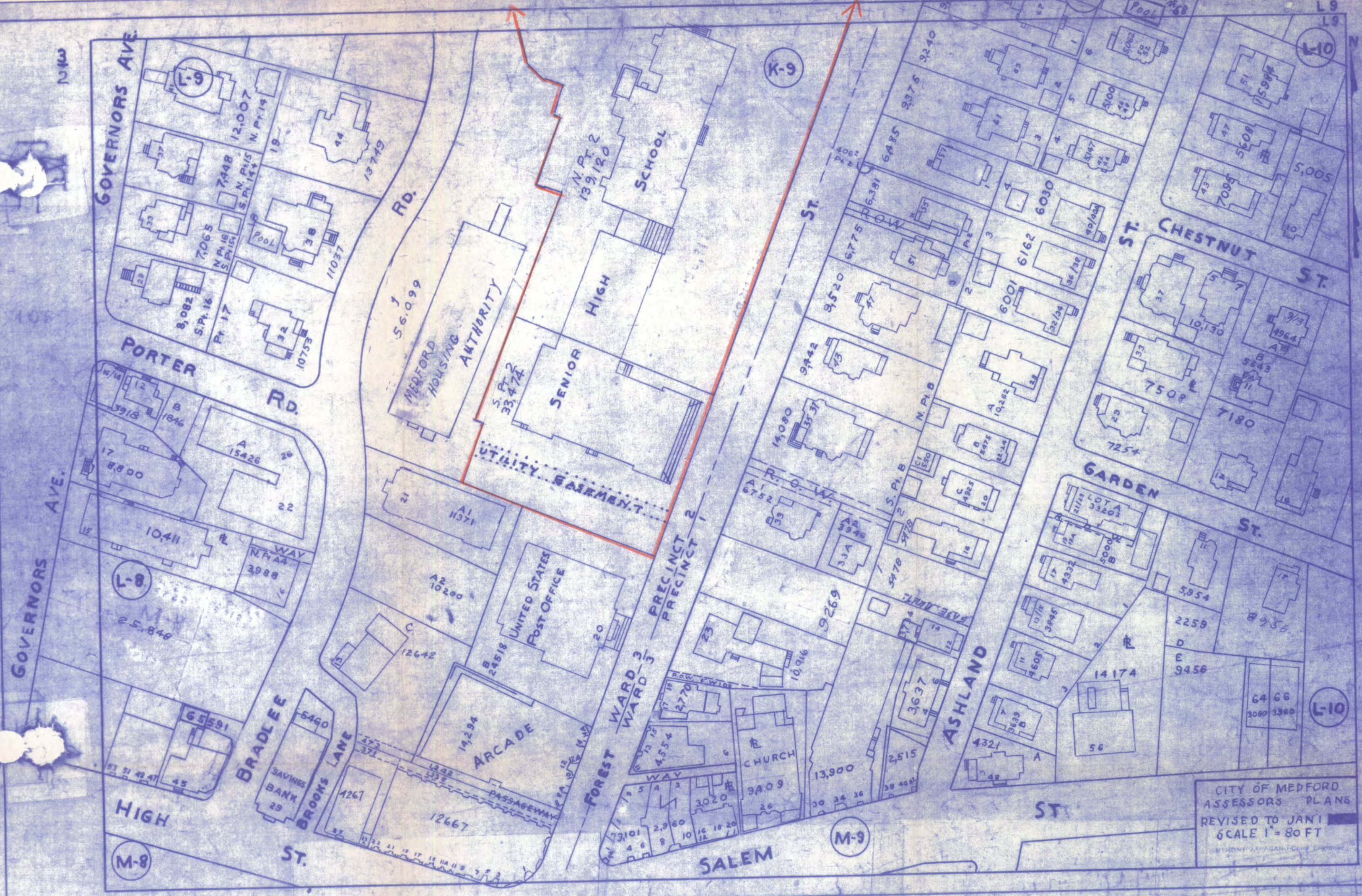


Property name: Old Medford High School
Street address: Forest Street
Community: Medford, Ma.

Photographer and date: J.P. Matthews, 6/17/83
Location of negative-Office of Comm. Devt.,
City Hall, Medford

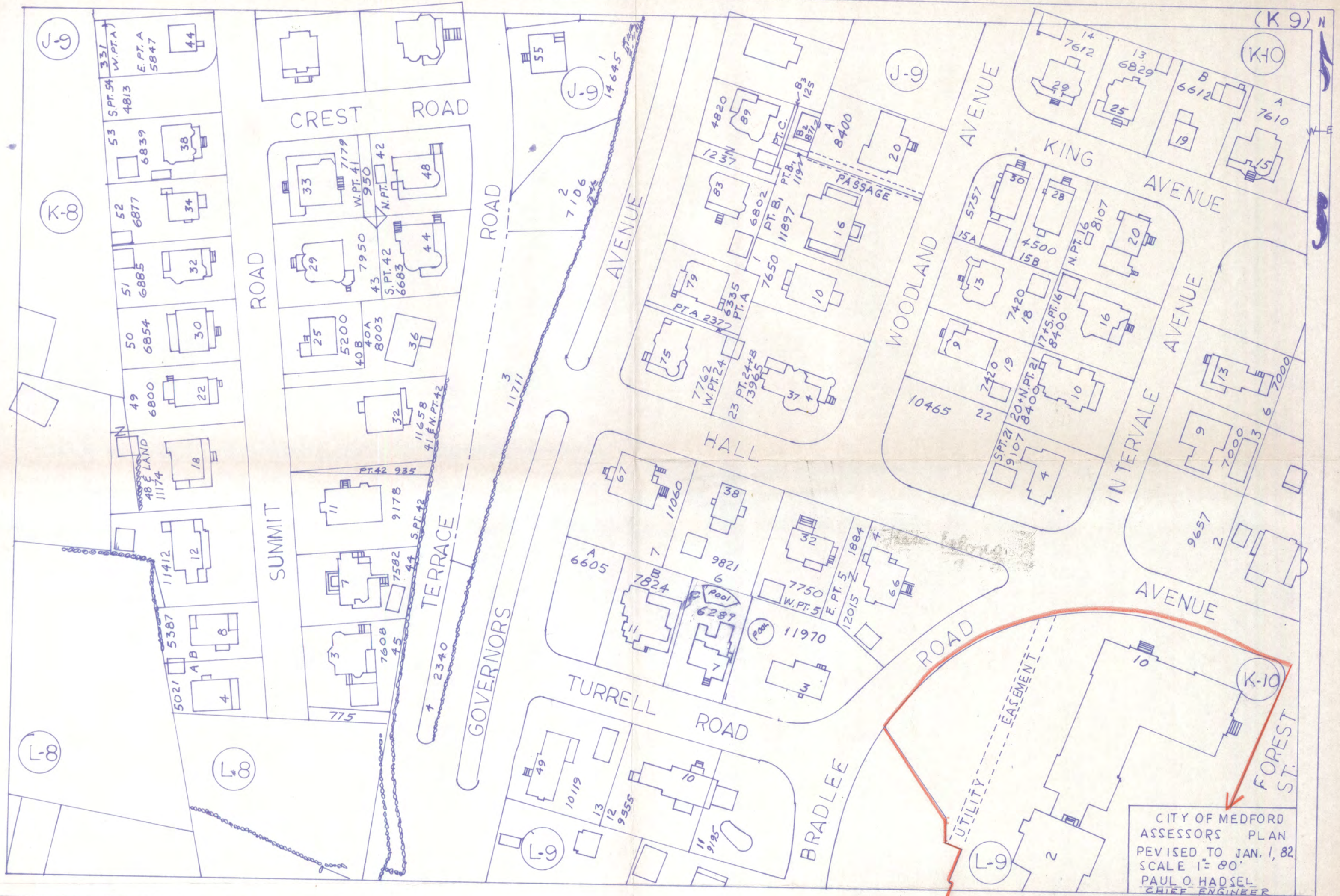
Photo number 3 of 3
Description of view

North wing from southeast; World War I Memorial
in foreground



CITY OF MEDFORD
 ASSESSORS PLANS
 REVISED TO JAN 1
 SCALE 1" = 80 FT

Sheet 1 of 2
 Medford High School



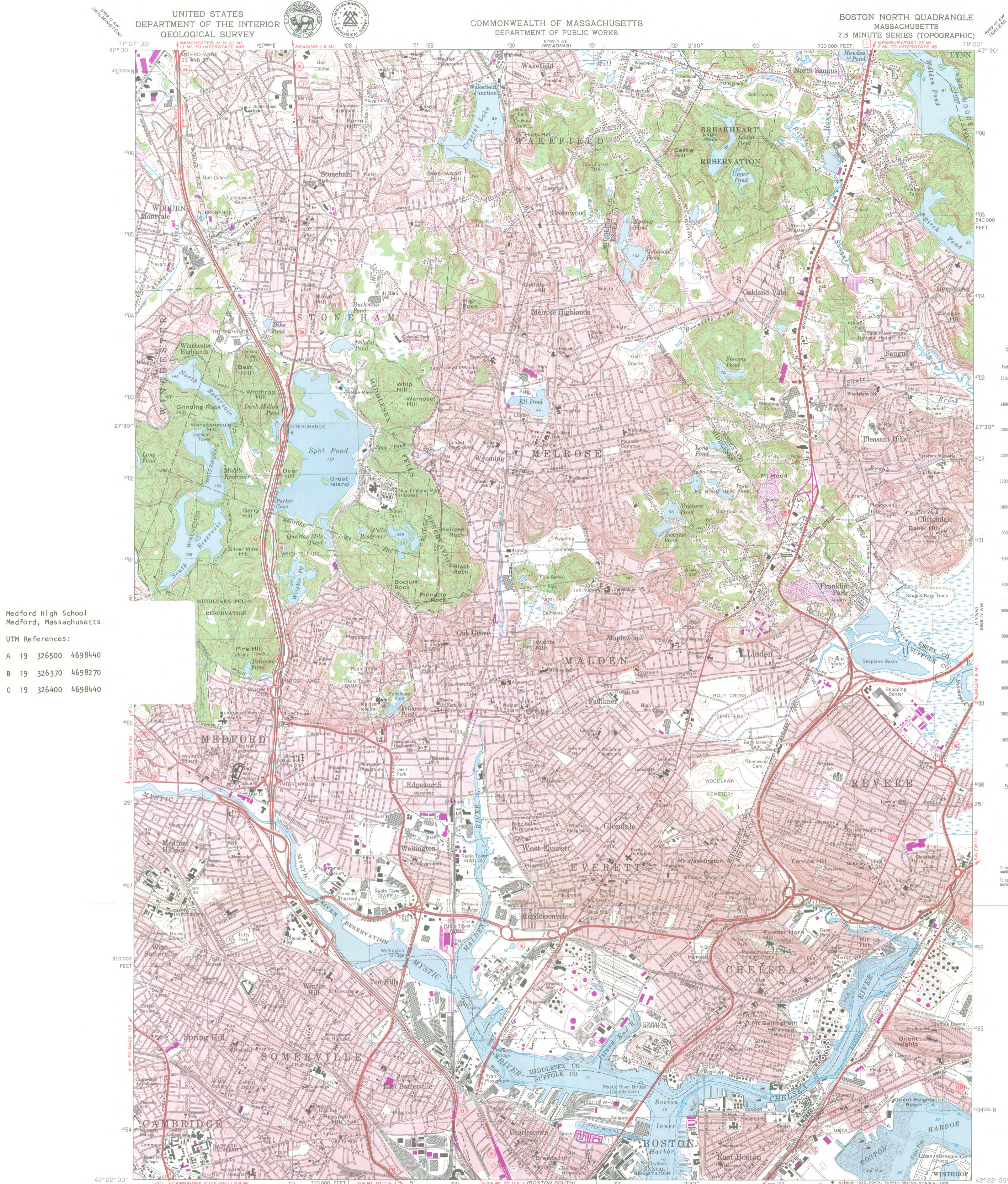
CITY OF MEDFORD
 ASSESSORS PLAN
 REVISED TO JAN. 1, 82
 SCALE 1" = 80'
 PAUL O. HADSEL
 CHIEF ENGINEER

L.D.



Medford High School
Medford, Massachusetts

UTM References:
A 19 326500 4698440
B 19 326370 4698270
C 19 326400 4698440

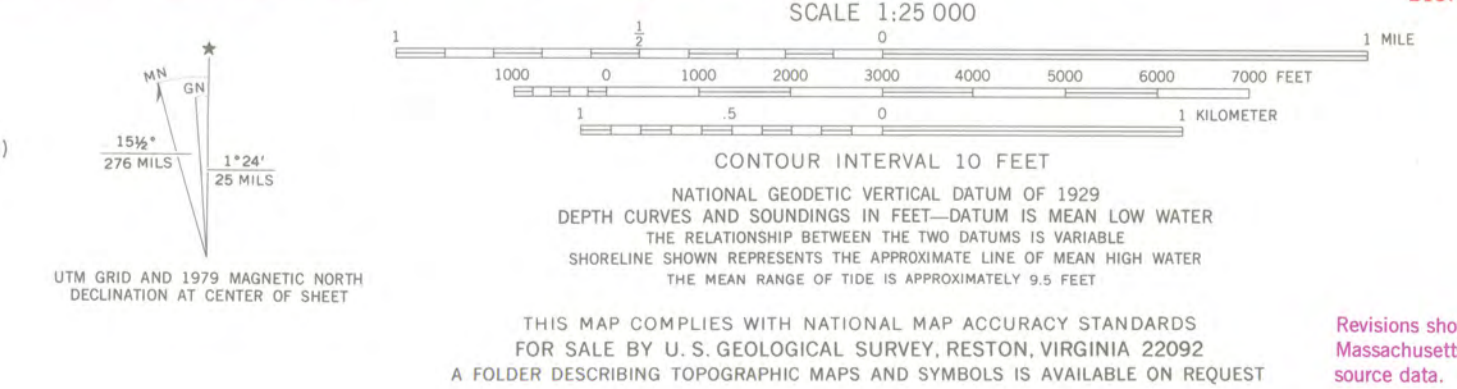


CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4000
13000	3500
12000	3000
11000	2500
10000	2000
9000	1500
8000	1000
7000	500
6000	0
5000	0
4000	0
3000	0
2000	0
1000	0
0	0

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5

1971
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 1 NE-SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST