

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

DEC 09 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 Wrentham State School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Emerald St N/A not for publication

city or town Wrentham N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Norfolk code 021 zip code 02093

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 12/8/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough Date Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of 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 the 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

Patrick W. Andrews

1/21/94

Wrentham State School  
Name of Property

Norfolk 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	
51	25	buildings
9		sites
1	9	structures
		objects
61	34	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mass State Hospitals & State Schools

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

FUNERARY: cemetery

RECREATION/CULTURE: auditorium

AGRICULTURE: storage, field, animal facility, outbuilding

INDUSTRY: energy, powerplant

HEALTH CARE: mental hospital

LANDSCAPE: parking lot, plaza, forest

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

FUNERARY: cemetery

RECREATION/CULTURE: auditorium

AGRICULTURE: storage, field, animal facility, outbuilding

INDUSTRY: energy, powerplant

HEALTH CARE: mental hospital

LANDSCAPE: parking lot, plaza, forest

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic - Federal

19th/20th Revivals - Colonial Revival

19th/20th American - Craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite, concrete

walls brick/wood: shingle/stucco

roof slate, asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

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



**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 a 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH/MEDICINE
- SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1906-1940

**Significant Dates**

- 1906 - establishment
- 1910 - official opening
- 1930 - death of George Wallace, 1st Supt.

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Kendall & Taylor

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Wrentham State School  
Name of Property

Norfolk County, MA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 700 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

19	308700	4662800
Zone	Easting	Northing

  
2 

19	309520	4661870
Zone	Easting	Northing

3 

19	307720	4659930
Zone	Easting	Northing

  
4 

19	306860	4660830
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**

Candace Jenkins, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register  
name/title Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1993

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Wrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

**DESCRIPTION**

Location/Surroundings: The Wrentham State School occupies 700 acres of gently rolling terrain north of the Wrentham town center. The original site of 450 acres was expanded to its present size by the 1920s. Dedham Street/State Route 1A forms the southeast boundary of the campus, with the parallel tracks of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad located just beyond. Shears Street provides the northwest boundary, while North Street separates the main campus (W) from the agricultural area (E). Major transportation routes in the immediate vicinity include State Route 140 (S), Interstate Route 95 (SE), and Pond Street/State Route 115 (NE). At a greater distance are Interstate Route 495 (S) and the Conrail tracks (NW).

Extensive wetlands associated with Stony Brook (NW), Stop River (NE), and Meadow Brook (S) surround the campus. Mirror Lake is located immediately to the northwest, while Archer Lake is a short distance to the southwest; Meadow Brook forms the southwest boundary of the site. Residential subdivisions are clustered around the lakes. Dedham Street is lined with buildings that are mixed in date and use. Overall, development in the immediate vicinity is light.

Site and Landscape: The campus is informally divided into three zones of varying topography and use. The relatively flat lowland bounded by North Street (E), Shears Street (NW), and Emerald Street (S) forms the main campus and is dominated by patient care facilities. A similarly flat area between Emerald and Dedham Streets is an open field that includes the cemetery near its center, fairgrounds and playing fields, and several houses along the roadways. Two dwellings at the intersection of North and Dedham Streets date to the early nineteenth century. With the exception of the cemetery and the land bordering North Street, this parcel is the least important of overall campus integrity. The hillier terrain east of North Street is devoted to agricultural uses with farm buildings and watertowers sited on the highest elevations. This area (#95) is bisected by a dirt road where the dairy barn and foundations of poultry houses are located. Additional acreage on the south side of Shears Street was probably used for agriculture as well, and may have been the first area devoted to that purpose (#95). The First Annual Report of 1907 noted that the land would provide good tillage for farming. By the 1920s, the school possessed 700 acres of rich farmland and was able to harvest its own vegetables, slaughter hogs, and produce an abundant supply of eggs and milk. Farming operations continued through the 1970s, and agricultural fields generally remain open and unforested, maintained in rough turf. A few sheep, goats, and cows remain. Sewage treatment facilities are located on the east side of North Street at the northern end of the campus.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 2

The Fourth Annual Report 1910 noted that "plan has been completed during the year fixing the location of all future buildings to be erected as the institution develops...." It survives in the Massachusetts State Archives collection as a 1910 plan of the sewage system, locating all existing and future buildings. The main building site is developed on a rectangular plan with an east-west axis consisting of Curtis Avenue, Greeley Street, and Bryant Avenue bisected by the primary north-south corridor of Patterson Road. Buildings are laid out around a central green (#92) or common defined by Greeley Street (S) and Bryant Avenue (N). A secondary green (#93) is defined by Curtis Avenue (S) and Greeley Street (N). Within this framework, buildings are sited to form sheltered spaces that are grassed, dotted with mature shade trees, and crisscrossed with paved footpaths. Some of these areas contain benches and playground equipment. Trees include oaks, maples, white pines, hemlocks, and spruces. A grove of white pines stands in front of A Ward (#1), with a screen extending northwest from Merrill Infirmary (#19) to Shears Street. These sheltered spaces are important landscape components that helped to create the therapeutic "ideal environment." The south side was originally devoted to girls, while the north was developed for boys.

The Administration Building (#20) is located at the northeast corner of Curtis Avenue and Patterson Road, with patient wards beside it and behind on Greeley Street. These buildings define the secondary green (#93). The central green (#92) is developed with original food service buildings (#25) at its east end, and the recent large-scale school building (#21) unfortunately sited at its west end. Despite some losses to paved parking and a major enlargement of the service building in 1954, the green remains a pleasant, sheltered area. A few more patient wards and employee dwellings stand on Bryant Avenue with fields stretching back to Shear Street at the northwest edge of the campus (#95). In the 1920s, an assembly hall (#22) and industrial buildings (#23, 24) were added to the west end of the site on Littlefield Road, and in the 1930s Prouty Drive was added to the southwest corner with several nursery buildings (#12-18). The east side of the building site has traditionally been devoted to support buildings including power house, laundry, and maintenance facilities. Those at the northeast corner around Finch Road were devoted to farm maintenance and workers' housing.

Buildings: The campus is developed on the cottage plan that dominated state schools and hospitals from the late nineteenth century on. Most of the school's buildings were erected 55 to 85 years ago, with a small number added in the 1950s and 1960s. They include the usual state school mix of administrative structures, patient and staff housing, school and industrial training facilities, and farm and maintenance buildings. Most were designed by the firm of Kendall & Taylor, who may also have been responsible for the landscape plan.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 3

The original patient wards, designed as early as 1907 and dating from the 1910s, are small-scale, two-story, red-brick structures with Craftsman-style detail that are built on a cruciform plan. The first stories were largely devoted to playrooms and dayrooms, with office and reception space in the front arm of the crucifix, and toilets to the rear. The upper floors were devoted to dormitory space. Two early Latin cross-plan wards designed for custodial patients acquired a bad reputation in the modern era, so one was converted to a shop (A; #1) while the other was demolished ca. 1980 (K; #75). Staff housing from the same period consists of two-story, shingled, gable-end structures, and small-scale stuccoed cottages, all with Craftsman-style detail. All housed upwards of twenty staff in very cramped quarters.

Several additions were made to the campus in the 1920s, when the Belchertown State School campus was under construction (see form). Most of these maintain the scale and materials of their predecessors but reflect the Colonial Revival style. The two industrial training workshops and auditorium at the east end of the campus are the most prominent additions of this decade. They replaced a 1913 school building that stood west of the food service building. More construction occurred in the 1930s, generally at a larger scale and in a more austere version of the Colonial Revival style. Red brick remained the preferred material. Buildings from this period included a group of nurseries at the southwest corner of the campus, and a typical Y-plan infirmary. Later buildings like the Ewalt Nursery of 1963 and the Quinn School of 1959 are modern structures of substantially larger scale.

Building Losses/Campus Integrity: Several buildings, known through architect's drawings at Massachusetts State Archives and citations in annual reports, have been lost from the campus. K Ward (#75) was a large dormitory for 100 custodial boys designed by Kendall & Taylor in 1912-1913; it was identical to A Ward (#1). A school building (#89) containing classrooms, workshops, and an auditorium was designed in 1913 by Kendall & Taylor; it stood next to the food service building in the central green. Two wood-frame dormitories (#90, 91) designed by Kendall & Taylor in 1907 to house the advance crew from the Fernald School stood near the present grounds crew/maintenance complex, which functioned as the original farm complex. These were simple Craftsman-style structures, very similar to their contemporaries at the Templeton Colony (see form) designed by William Gibbons Preston. Handicap-access ramps are the most common exterior change to remaining buildings. Landscapes have been most affected by parking lots and limited new construction. Despite these few changes, the campus clearly reflects its early development under the superintendency of Dr. George L. Wallace from 1907-1930.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 4

---

**Representative buildings are described below:****Administrative Buildings**#20: Administration Building (1914)

The Colonial Revival-style Administration Building is a one-story, rectangular-plan, red-brick structure enclosed by a slate hip roof detailed with a triglyph cornice and mutules. Its center entry, with modern double-leaf metal door, is headed by a large twenty-pane metal sash window and is protected by a pedimented portico with paired Tuscan columns that rise through the roof. Windows are set in soldier course surrounds and originally contained 10/10/10 triple-hung sash. They are now altered by permanent air conditioning units and sliding sash. A modern, flat-roofed wing extends from the rear east elevation. Kendall & Taylor's original 1912 design for this building does not include the present pedimented portico.

#25: Food Service Building (1908/1912/1954)

The original portion of this L-plan building is a two-part rear ell on the west side. It includes one- and two-story sections with segmental-arched windows and a flat roof extended on brackets. A headhouse, added in 1912, faces south toward the Administration Building. It is a two-story, red-brick structure enclosed by a flat roof with parapet. The main entry is located behind a recent gable-roofed porch. Single windows on this elevation display granite sills and 6/6 sash. Windows on the side elevations are generally paired and set in segmental-arch openings. These two early sections were designed by Kendall & Taylor. The flat-roofed east wing with large, multipane industrial sash and loading bays with platforms was added in 1954.

#22: Auditorium (1922)

The Auditorium is another of the campus's red-brick, Colonial Revival-style structures. It is a five-by-nine-bay rectangular-plan building that rises two stories from a high brick basement set off by a cast-stone water-table to a low-pitched roof with projecting cornice. The five-bay east facade displays five arched entries with new double-leaf doors that are sheltered by a single roof extended on massive brackets. Small eight-pane windows are located above. Other windows contain a variety of multipane sash and are headed by brick lintels with keystones. Side elevations are organized with five-bay centerpieces framed by slightly projecting two-bay end pavilions. A concrete handicapped ramp has been added to the north side. The Auditorium was designed by Kendall & Taylor and replaced their earlier school building in function (#89).

#23, 24: Mens' and Womens' Vocational Buildings (1923, 1922)

These two identical nine-by-three-bay, two-story, red-brick buildings are enclosed by overhanging flat roofs with ventilators and brackets whose spacing corresponds to that of the bays. Located at the west

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 5

end of the building group, where they frame the Auditorium (#2), they face east. The outer bays contain transomed entries framed by windows with 9/9 sash and headed by suspended hip roofs. Other bays contain paired windows with 12/12 sash, cast-stone sills, and soldier course lintels. Secondary entries are centered on the side elevations. Both buildings were designed by Kendall & Taylor.

#19: Merrill Infirmary (1934)

Merrill is built on the double-Y plan with splayed wings at each end that was pioneered at Metropolitan State Hospital for infirmaries of this period. Displaying simple Colonial Revival-style detail, it is a one-story, red-brick structure enclosed by a slate hip roof with underscaled central cupola. The thirteen-bay facade with nine-bay wings is centered on an entry framed by pilasters and pediment. Windows contain new single-pane sash. Merrill was designed by Clarence P. Hoyt.

#16: Hospital (1950)

The modern hospital is a three-story, red-brick structure with penthouse that is built on a Y plan with splayed wings that extend back to the south. The main entrance is centered on the north elevation enframed by a blank, projecting cast-stone frontispiece with cantilevered hood and large glass-block window above. This entire element is surrounded by Flemish bond brickwork with burnt headers. Windows are generally paired and contain louvered sash. At the rear, a three-story screened porch is centered between the wings. The hospital was designed by G. S. McLaughlin.

#28: Marion Moore (1951)

Marion Moore, with its double-Y plan and late Colonial Revival-style detail, is based on Merrill. It is a two-story, red-brick structure that rises two stories from a concrete foundation to a slate gable roof with vertically proportioned center cupola. The thirteen-bay center section is framed by angled one-story, flat-roof wings. The center entry displays a simple architrave and hood. Windows contain single-pane sash with hoppers and are arranged in banks in the wings.

**Patient Wards**#3, 5: C and E Wards (1910)

C and E Wards, designed by the Boston firm of Kendall & Taylor, were the first masonry dormitories constructed at Wrentham and served as the prototype for such buildings through the 1920s, both here and at Belchertown (see form). They are two-story, red-brick structures rising from uncoursed granite foundations with cast-stone watertables to bracketed slate hip roofs with large central ventilators. Built on cruciform plans, entries are located in three-bay central pavilions, and are protected by one-story, two-pier porches. Windows are generally paired and contain 16/16 sash at the first story and 12/12 sash at the second. All have granite sills, while those in the wings

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 6

have soldier course lintels as well. Trim is confined to brick pilasters and cruciform designs formed by burnt headers on the main mass of the building, and splayed lintels on the entry pavilion. Despite the severity of the Craftsman style-derived design, the buildings are finely crafted. According to Annual Reports, these wards were built to house 100 patients each.

#1: A Ward (1911)

A and K Wards (site of #75; 1910) are similar to the other patient wards, but were constructed on a larger Latin-cross plan with six-bay stems. They were intended to house 130 custodial cases each. A Ward stood on the eastern edge of the girls' side of the campus, where it overlooked a pine grove, while K Ward stood on the boys' side. Unlike the other earliest buildings, these have cast-stone trim and quatrastyle porches. K Ward was demolished ca. 1980, as were both of the custodial wards at Belchertown. Staff at both schools note that these buildings had bad reputations, probably because of their associations as "back wards" for custodial cases. Original plans by Kendall & Taylor show workrooms in the basement; day, nursery, and dining rooms at the first story; and dormitories at the second story. As the only surviving example of these custodial wards at the state schools, A Ward is particularly important. It is in fair condition, but has lost its porch roof.

#2, 6: B and F Wards (1912)

B and F Wards are identical to their predecessors in all but minor details and represent a transition to the later D, G, L, M, and O Wards. They retain the burnt header cruciform ornamentation of the earlier wards, while adding the four-bay porches ornamented with the stylized cast-stone trim found on the later wards.

#7, 8, 9, 10: G, L, M, O Wards (1915-1917)

These four wards retain the cruciform plan, granite foundations with cast-stone watertables, red-brick construction, overhanging slate roofs with exposed rafters, and paired multipane sash of their predecessors. Their four-column porches display the stylized cast-stone trim found on B and F Wards, but the entries are framed by sidelights. The earlier G, L, and M Wards retain the burnt header cruciform patterning as panels between windows. Granite sills are replaced by cast stone.

#4: D Ward (1917)

D Ward differs from the other patient wards of the period in its rectangular rather than cruciform plan. That is because it originally functioned as a hospital, authorized in 1914. Otherwise, it is a quite typical, red-brick with cast-stone trim building rising two stories from an uncoursed granite foundation to a bracketed, slate hip roof with ventilators. The seven-bay south facade is articulated with a slightly recessed five-bay central section that contains an entry with flat-roof porch supported on the typical piers with stylized

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 7

trim. Windows with cast-stone sills and brick lintels contain 12/12 sash. Slightly recessed lateral porches are now infilled with brick and louvered windows; they originally had canvas roofs at the second story. The hospital was designed by Kendall & Taylor.

#12, 13, 14, 15: Oak Grove Cottages I, II, III, IV (1930, 1931, 1932, 1936)

These nurseries are nearly identical two-story, stucco-clad cottages enclosed by slate gable roofs with central louvered cupolas. They are arranged around a sheltered central courtyard, which they all face, with the exception of Oak Grove I. All are built on a U-plan with five-bay centerpieces embraced by two-bay wings. Center entries are protected by pedimented porches on paired piers and are framed by three-sided bays. Windows are generally paired and contain 8/8 sash. Centered three-bay rear ells contain secondary entries. The cupolas and pedimented entries are derived from the Colonial Revival style. The Oak Grove group was designed by Kendall & Taylor.

**Employee Residences**

#29, 30, 31: Employee Housing 1, 2, and 3 (1909, 1911, 1913)

These simple, rectangular, wood-frame dwellings rising two stories from fieldstone foundations to bracketed, slate hip roofs were originally built to house twenty-two employees each. Their three-bay south facades are centered on one-story, hip-roof porches. Fenestration is irregular with four- to five-bay side elevations; windows contain 8/8 sash. All now have concrete handicapped ramps leading to the front entries. These houses were designed by Kendall & Taylor.

#32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37: Employee Housing 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 (1914, 1925, 1927)

Authorized in 1913, these employee houses adopted a new and substantially more attractive design than their predecessors, and acted as the model for similar buildings at Belchertown. They are sited in a row at the north end of the campus. They are stuccoed cottages that rise two stories from granite foundations to slate gambrel roofs with shed-roof dormers and center chimneys. Symmetrical south facades consist of two-bay center sections framed by two-bay gambrel crosspieces. Centered one-story porches supported on four squat columns complete the design. Secondary entries are centered on the side elevations. Windows are simply framed and contain 8/8 sash. In several cases, the front porches have been enclosed, and all have handicapped ramps added to the front or lateral entries. Although substantially later in date, Cottage #8 is identical. Cottage #9 is located behind the others and is substantially larger, but continues the same materials and design. Considering its location and size, cottage #9 may have been built to house patients who worked on the farm. All were designed by Kendall & Taylor. The smaller cottages were designed to house twenty-two people each. They contained one

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 8

bathroom and one double bedroom at each story, and a sitting room at the first story; the remaining space was divided into small single bedrooms.

#17: Wallace (ca. 1920)

Wallace is a simple, red-brick Colonial Revival-style structure that was built as an Officers' Residence. Sited next to the Administration Building, it is a rectangular plan building that rises two stories from a concrete foundation to a wood cornice and rectilinear parapet. The seven-bay south facade is focused on a small, pedimented Tuscan portico protecting an entry with transom and sidelights. Windows are paired with 6/9 sash, and each bay is defined by a soldier course frame with cast-stone cornerpieces. Three-bay side elevations are centered on two-story, five-sided entrance bays. It was designed by Kendall & Taylor.

#38: Campus House (1933)

Constructed as a large Employee Residence, the red-brick Campus House is a handsome example of the Colonial Revival style, designed by James H. Ritchie Associates. It is a nineteen-by-five-bay, rectangular-plan structure that rises three stories from a brick and concrete basement with molded watertable to a slate gable roof. The south facade is focused on a slightly projecting, three-bay center pavilion whose gable rises above the cornice where it is framed by cast-stone volutes, and contains a central oculus with cast-stone foliate frame. The center entry is recessed within a frame consisting of fluted pilasters carrying a full entablature. Windows contain 8/8 sash and are headed by brick lintels with cast-stone keystones and endpieces. The three-bay end elevations display full-width, one-story porches and the same gable treatment as the center pavilion. A brick-walled handicapped-access ramp now leads to the main entry.

**Single Family Residences**#47, 48: Steward's Home (1933)

Located at 84 North Street, the Steward's Home is a standard red-brick, five-bay Colonial Revival-style house that rises 2 1/2 stories from a concrete foundation to a slate hip roof. The center entry is framed by sidelights and an elliptical arched fan and is fronted by a one-story Tuscan porch. Windows contain 6/1 sash. Glazed sunporches are attached to both side elevations, with an exterior chimney on the north. The house is accompanied by a matching garage.

#45, 46: Superintendent's House, 5 North Street (ca. 1790; MHC #N227)

This fine Federal-period dwelling is located at the northeast corner of North and Dedham Streets on a lot set off by a fieldstone wall. The house is sited on a terrace defined by a boxwood hedge and approached by eight granite steps. Terracing was a common landscaping device for high-style buildings of the period. The clapboard dwelling rises two stories from a granite block foundation to an asphalt hip

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 9

roof with interior chimneys. The five-bay west facade is centered on an entry framed by sidelights and louvered fan, as well as pilasters supporting an entablature with molded cornice. A two-story, one-bay wing that probably dates to the school's initial occupation in 1907 is attached to the north elevation. The house was built ca. 1790 by General Oliver Pond, a veteran of the Revolutionary War and a respected civic leader. The house was in Pond family ownership until 1863, and again from 1883 to 1907, when it was then sold to the Wrentham School.

#53, 54: Assistant Superintendent House, 423 Dedham Street (1805; MHC #N236)

Located at the northwest corner of North and Dedham Streets, the former Tillson House is another well-detailed Federal-period dwelling. It is a clapboard-clad structure that rises 2 1/2 stories from a granite-block foundation to an asphalt gable roof with center stove chimney. The five-bay south facade is centered on an entry with half sidelights and a Tuscan porch. Windows contain 6/6 sash. Side elevations are two bays deep. A two-bay wing with verandah extends from the east elevation. The house was built in 1805 by Nehemiah Tillson, a blacksmith whose descendants owned it until 1903. Augusta Stewart sold it to the Wrentham School in 1907.

**Support Group**

#26: Laundry (1910/1934)

The Laundry and neighboring Powerhouse (#27) were built entirely of stone dug from the site. Like the foundations of the wards, the stone is uncoursed, with raised mortar joints. The three-by-five-bay laundry building rises one story to a roof with brackets, stepped parapets on its front and rear elevations, and a glazed wood-frame monitor. The main entry is centered on the south facade with sidelights, transom, and a hood suspended on chains. Windows are paired and contain multipane sash with transoms. Six garage bays have been added to the rear of the west elevation. This laundry, which is one of the most interesting in the system, was designed by Kendall & Taylor.

#27: Powerhouse (1909/1958)

The Powerhouse is a one-story, L-plan structure enclosed by a roof with stepped parapets. The original section (W) is constructed of uncoursed granite with raised mortar joints. Paired 9/9 windows are set in segmental-arched openings. The addition is buff brick and flat-roofed, with large, multipane metal industrial sash; a red-brick smokestack rises here, while a recent corrugated metal garage is attached to the north elevation. The powerhouse was designed by Kendall & Taylor.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 10#74: Main Garage (1930)

The main garage is a rectangular plan, stucco-clad structure whose roof is hidden by a parapet. It consists of a headhouse at the west end, a four-bay garage wing, and a lower level service area at the east end.

**Agricultural Group**#55: Dairy Barn (1922)

The dairy barn is a large, rambling, one-story, concrete-block structure made up of numerous interconnected gable-roof wings with metal ventilators. It is in poor condition, with a portion severely damaged by fire.

#56: Brooder House (1920s)

The concrete-block Brooder House is similar to the adjacent Dairy Barn. Its north facade is centered on a two-story, five-bay cross gable. The entry is located at the upper level, where it is approached by a fieldstone ramp. Flanking one-story wings are also gable roofed, with metal ventilators and irregular fenestration.

#68, 69, 70, 71, 72: Farm Offices/Grounds Crew (ca. 1910s-1950)

This group of five small-scale buildings includes: #68: a one-story, U-plan corrugated metal and concrete-block shed with open bays of ca. 1950; #69: a one-story, concrete-block farm office with gable roof dating from ca. 1907 (it once served as a horse barn); #70: a two-story, wood-frame tractor shed with gable roof on brackets and 6/6 sash of ca. 1907; #71: a corrugated metal tractor shed dating from 1965; and #72: a long, low, one-story, clapboard-clad structure enclosed by a gable roof with brackets and cupola/ventilator, designed by Kendall & Taylor in 1913 for vegetable storage.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the Wrentham State School property, it is possible that sites are present. One site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the property, well-drained, level to moderately sloping terraces and knolls in close proximity to wetlands, indicate favorable locational criteria for Native subsistence and settlement. Major drainage in the area is through extensive wetlands associated with Stony Brook to the northwest, Stop River to the northeast, and Meadow Brook to the south, all part of the interior Charles River drainage. Mirror Lake lies less than 1,000 feet (300 meters) from the school boundary to the northwest and Lake Archer to the southwest. Each of the above factors, combined with the large size of the school (700 acres) and limited historic development, indicates a high probability for locating prehistoric resources. Major sensitive areas include the southern portion of the school in the vicinity of Meadow Brook, the southeastern portion of the school in the Dedham Street

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****Wrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
Massachusetts**Section number 7, 8 Page 11, 1

locale bordering wetlands, including the unnamed tributary streams extending into the central portion of the campus and the northwestern portion of the school in the vicinity of Shears Street. Most of these areas include fields or otherwise undeveloped areas.

There is also a high potential for historic archaeological resources on the Wrentham State School property. Two early structures, #45, 46, the General Oliver Pond House (1790) and #53, #54, the Nehemiah Tillson House (1806), predate the school on the northeast and northwest corner of North and Dedham streets respectively. Structural remains may survive from additional 18th/19th century residential structures in the area as well as outbuildings (barns, sheds) and related features. Extant and presently unknown structures in the area may be purely residential but more likely relate to preexisting farmsteads and residential structures. Several buildings present at the start of the State School were remodeled for occupation by boys from other schools who assisted in later construction. These structures could be earlier farm buildings. Archaeological remains may also survive from structures built for the State School. As least four structures no longer extant have been identified from architects' drawing and citations in Annual Reports. A large dorm, #75, K-Ward (1912-1913), was demolished in 1980. A schoolhouse, #89 (1913), which no longer survives, stood next to the school service building on the central green. The schoolhouse was replaced by two industrial training workshops. Two additional dormitories are also known to have existed, #90 and #91. Structural remains are also likely from the school's original farm complex, which existed at the present grounds crew/maintenance complex. Structural remains indicated by poultry house foundations are present off a dirt road that bisects hilly terrain east of North Street. Unmarked graves may also exist associated with the school's cemetery, #79 (1910).

**(end)****HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Wrentham State School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Authorized in 1906 as the Commonwealth's second school for the "feeble-minded," it was considered an outstanding institution for children, at least through the mid-twentieth century. Its early history was closely allied with that of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded (see Fernald School form), which might be considered a parent institution since it provided the Wrentham School's superintendent as well as the first pupils who assisted in the initial construction and outfitting of the buildings. The Wrentham School is significant for its distinguished history in the education of developmentally disabled children, and as the Commonwealth's first school to employ a standardized plan for wards and employee housing, plans that were

**(continued)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 2

later adopted at the Belchertown State School (see form). Wrentham's history clearly reflects major trends in the development of the State Hospital and School System as described in the overview. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant on the local and state levels. Its period of significance extends from 1906 to 1940.

By the turn of the century, the population of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded in Waltham had reached 1,000 patients, which was then considered to be the limit for successful operation. Thus, in 1905, the Trustees requested that the Legislature consider establishment of a second "school for the feeble-minded" in Massachusetts (Wallace 1941: 64). Chapter 508 of the Acts of 1906 provided the necessary authorization. The Trustees were informed by the State Board of Insanity that most of the school's future patients would likely come from the eastern half of the state, especially the metropolitan area, so they decided to look for a site southwest of Boston that would be easily accessible. They purchased a 450-acre parcel in Wrentham for \$36,973, which provided space enough for the projected population of 1,000-1,500 pupils, abundant water to be obtained from driven wells, large amounts of stone, sand, and gravel suitable for building purposes, and fertile fields for farming (First Annual Report 1907).

The Legislature appropriated \$50,000 in 1906 and \$25,000 in 1907 to begin construction of the school. Before initiating a building program, however, Superintendent George L. Wallace, formerly first assistant physician at the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded in Waltham, visited a number of new institutions in the west to study methods of housing and treatment. Initial work at Wrentham concentrated on remodelling existing buildings on the site so that some "older boys" could be transferred from Waltham as quickly as possible to relieve overcrowding and to assist in the later construction. One house (#45) was fitted up for the superintendent and administrative offices, another for male attendants and a congregate kitchen/dining room, while the third was remodelled to accommodate ten adult boys who were transferred from Waltham in June 1907. According to both Fernald and Wrentham Annual Reports, these boys considered it a great honor to be chosen to help start the new school. The first new construction undertaken was the erection of two dormitories (sites #90, 91) similar to those at the Templeton Colony (see form) to accommodate a total of forty to fifty boys. These buildings were completed, and forty boys were transferred from Waltham in the spring of 1908 (First Annual Report 1907). These dormitories stood just north of the present maintenance complex, which served as the original Farm group. Designs by Kendall & Taylor that are preserved in the Massachusetts State Archives collection are very similar to the contemporary dormitories at Templeton designed by William Gibbons Preston.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****Wrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 3

Having completed this initial phase of construction, the Trustees requested \$189,500 from the Legislature in 1908 for two brick dormitories to house fifty pupils each, a service (kitchen) building, an employees' home, a powerhouse, and an on-site water supply. The Second Annual Report of November 1908 indicates that the Legislature authorized construction of the powerhouse and service building as well as the two dorms, although it was specified that they be enlarged to accommodate one hundred pupils each. The treasurer's statement indicates that the Boston firm of Kendall & Taylor, who were involved in construction of several state hospitals at this period, had been selected as architects. Sometime during the year, an additional forty-five boys were transferred from Waltham to assist in tending crops, hauling building stone, excavating basements, and otherwise preparing the school for its full opening (Second Annual Report 1908).

The Third Annual Report of 1909 reflected great progress in the development of the school. The brick Service Building (#25) was complete, as were the stone powerhouse (#27) and a wood-frame attendants' residence (#29-EH1). Two brick dorms (#3-C, 5-E) and the stone laundry (#26) were well under way. Anxious to prepare the school for its formal opening, the Trustees went on to request appropriations for a custodial building, two attendants' residences, another dormitory, and additional farm buildings, as well as electrification of the entire Farm Group (Third Annual Report 1909). Because construction was proceeding so rapidly, Annual Reports from 1909-1916 included special balance sheets specifying funds appropriated and amounts expended.

On April 1, 1910, the school was officially opened, and children from the community were admitted for the first time. By the end of the reporting year (11/30/10), 217 new patients had been admitted, yielding a total population of 239, which included 133 males and 106 females. The 1910 Annual Report stated that all of the above-mentioned buildings were occupied and that another attendants' home (#49?), and a 130-patient custodial building (#1-A) were under way. Additionally it stated that "plan has been completed during the year fixing the location of all future buildings to be erected as the institution develops...." (Fourth Annual Report 1910).

The speed with which Wrentham was approved by the Legislature and made ready for opening reflects the dominant belief of the period that "mental defectives" represented a threat to the community as well as a drain on the public school system. This fear, which resulted in sterilization programs in many states, accompanied the more positive belief that institutions were the best means of improving the lives of mentally deficient citizens. There was little if any sense that their needs could be met in the community. This attitude was made clear by the Wrentham Trustees, who stated that the school "is not only helpful to the children themselves, but is of benefit to the community by removing those children who there would grow up in idleness and

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 4

ignorance, and become a menace to the morals of the community where they live" (Fourth Annual Report 1910).

Soon after opening, Superintendent Wallace took time to summarize the history of the school and to describe its population. His statement also reflects the dual strain of education/improvement and social protection:

At this point it seems appropriate to give a short resume of our work for the past three years. In June, 1907, we came to Wrentham, accompanied by 10 trained boys from the institution at Waltham. We at once started to make accommodations for 40 more adult boys, which work was completed and these boys admitted to the institution in the spring of 1908. The next task was that of constructing buildings for housing 200 inmates, together with a house for employees, a central heating, lighting, and power plant, laundry, kitchen, bakery, and storehouse, all of which have been constructed with a view of ultimately caring for at least 1,000 inmates. In March of this year the girls' building was ready for occupancy, and 50 trained girls were admitted from the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-minded. These girls were soon very busy and happy in cleaning the new buildings and in making the table linen and bedding, and in the general preparations for the reception of the new children about to be admitted. In April, as everything was in readiness, we began to admit children direct from the community. The class of children who poured in at our open doors, however, was of a higher grade mentally than we had anticipated. Of these admissions very few are of the sluggish, inactive class. On the contrary, they are largely of the excitable, reckless, destructive type with the criminal instinct well marked. Among these recent admissions are a number of adult girls, many of whom are physically rather attractive. The clamor for admission of these higher mental defectives to our institution is being recognized by physicians, social workers, teachers, and all moulders of public sentiment as never before, and promises much towards the prevention of degeneracy in the future. With the growing demand for the admission to our institution of the above-described complex types, is the corresponding demand, from necessity, for higher grade employees to care for these unfortunates. I know of no vocation where there is a greater amount of resourcefulness, tact, patience, and devotion to duty required than in the proper care of our inmates (Fourth Annual Report 1910).

Concurrently with the physical development of the school, the Trustees and superintendent were actively formulating its philosophy and programs. They said in the Second Annual Report, "The purpose of the school is the proper care of the mentally deficient, the conservation of their health, the promotion of their happiness and the realization to their own benefit of such physical and mental powers as their misfortune has left them." Generally they followed the methods

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****Wrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 5

developed at the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded, which combined study, labor, and recreation in a highly structured routine. The abilities of small children were developed through the Seguin and Kindergarten methods, while older children were assigned to graded classes in reading, writing, geography, and history, and also participated in occupational therapy. Adults who were employed at the hospital during the day attended evening programs in such areas as music, gymnastics, dancing and basketry.

Unlike many administrators of state hospitals for the "insane" who gradually accepted a custodial role for their institutions, the Trustees and superintendents of the state schools insisted upon their rehabilitative role. In 1911, the Wrentham Trustees said, "...our feeble-minded schools are not prisons, but homes in which a useful, happy, rational home life is carried on to the fullest possible extent." In 1915 they were more specific in saying, "How far it (Wrentham) is from a custodial institution, how far from an asylum for defectives, is only to be realized by those who visit the institution and observe the regular schoolwork." A final quote from 1918 further illustrates this view: "Feeble-minded schools should be made training schools rather than places of custody and detention, (that is their) real purpose both present and future."

To accomplish this goal of training and education, the Trustees encouraged a "vacation" system, which allowed pupils who had reached their potential to return to their homes or other suitable locations, thus providing room for new, untrained pupils; readmittance was automatic if problems occurred. The vacation program was used quite extensively, with about 10% of the school's population falling into this category throughout the 1910s. To support the program, the Trustees requested that a social worker be added to the staff for the first time in 1915, primarily to oversee release requests and to monitor outpatient care. In addition to establishing this program, the Trustees sought legislative changes that would augment their educational role. What was considered one of their biggest successes at the time occurred in the winter of 1911, when a law concerning "criminal defectives" was passed. Courts were instructed to send women and girls in this category to the Sherbourne Reformatory, boys to the Concord Reformatory, and men to the State Farm at Bridgewater, rather than to either of the state schools "to avoid the demoralizing influence of these defective delinquents upon the ordinary feeble-minded." Apparently, court officials did not always conform to this law, for the Trustees continued to mention the undesirable presence of "criminal defectives." The state schools' desire to avoid care of the "criminal defective" is akin to the desire of the state hospitals to avoid care of the chronically "insane," both populations who were difficult to care for and often beyond treatment.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****Wrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 6

The school expanded rapidly during the six-year period between its official opening in 1910 and 1916, when "provision for a third institution at Belchertown" was made (see form). During that period the population increased from 239 to 1,031, including 426 males and 605 females. Five cruciform dormitories (2-B, 6-F, 7-G, 8-L, 9-M) were authorized, following the apparently successful model of the original two buildings designed by Kendall & Taylor, who continued as architects. Two additional wood-frame employee homes, similar to the existing one, were authorized in 1910 and 1912 (#30-EH2, 31-EH3). Then, in 1913, a group of four employee residences was authorized (#32-EH4, 33-EH5, 34-EH6, 35-EH7) and designed on a more attractive 1 1/2-story gambrel-roof plan. Other major buildings funded during this period include a second custodial building in 1913 (#75-K, site of), a schoolhouse/assembly hall in 1912 (#89; site of), an administration building in 1913 (#20), and a hospital in 1914 (#4-D). The suitability of these buildings, particularly the cruciform wards and the 1913 group of employee residences, is revealed in their repetition at Wrentham and especially at the new school at Belchertown.

Although the Trustees continued to request funds for expansion at Wrentham, the Legislature and the State Commission on Mental Diseases appear to have focused their attention and money on the proposed institution at Belchertown. In 1918 the Trustees regretfully reported that "the state finds the school complete." Nevertheless, they asked for an assembly hall (#22), a gymnasium (#22), and male and female industrial buildings (#23, 24), requests that were not granted until the early 1920s. Most of the present farm buildings (#55-57) were also constructed in the 1920s, expanding the capacity of earlier structures (#69, 70, 72). At this time the school population was 1,339, consisting of 497 males, 703 females, and 139 pupils "on vacation". The school expanded slowly during the 1920s while its population hovered between 1,200 and 1,300. On July 3, 1930, Superintendent George L. Wallace died suddenly after masterminding development of the school for the 24 years of its existence. Buildings constructed during the 1930s, such as the nurseries (#12-15) on Prouty Drive, Merrill Infirmary (#19), and the Campus House (#38), were planned by Wallace even though they were not constructed until after his death.

The 1945 Governor and Council Report described Wrentham as an "outstanding institution for the care of children." Typical of this wartime period, the patient population of 2,000 was somewhat over the 1,811 capacity, while the employee level of 200 represented a 50% vacancy rate. The varied occupational therapy program, with patients placed in canneries, bakeries, laundries, farms, and in domestic service, was singled out for praise. The nurseries were also described as excellent and well equipped with toys and games (G/C 1945: 31).

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****Wrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 7

Two new buildings in the 1950s expanded the school's capacity to meet patient needs and abilities. The Raymond Medical Unit of 1955 acted as a general hospital for residents. The Karl V. Quinn School, with its 18 classrooms, library, gymnasium, and swimming pool, recognized the progress that most retarded individuals can achieve in scholastic, physical, and social development. During the 1960s, the school reached its peak population of 2,163 (January 1963), and employee residences began to be converted for patient use. In 1975, Wrentham became involved in the consent decree process that affected all of the state schools. As a result, five small, eight-resident group homes were opened in 1986, and a medical center followed in 1988. By 1989, the residential population had been reduced to 628, with the aim of providing community employment opportunities along with the least restrictive and most comfortable living situations possible.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Wrentham are basically unknown, any surviving sites would be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can contribute to a greater understanding of Native settlement and subsistence activities along the interior Charles drainage for which we have little information. Recent research in neighboring towns indicate many sites in this area may be small, belonging to the class of small, low-density, temporary, special-purpose sites. Larger sites could be present around lakes such as Mirror Lake and Lake Archer. Sites in this area may also contribute information on the sociopolitical relationships of native people in riverine drainage areas. The Wrentham State School lies within the interior Charles River drainage; however, the interior Neponset Drainage lies within two miles east of the school and the Taunton River/Mount Hope/Narragansett Bay drainage lies to the south. Prehistoric sites in this area may contain information indicating the local and regional sociopolitical impact of native social groups in these drainages and, possibly, how these relationships changed through time. This data could test commonly held beliefs pertaining to riverine drainage settlement hypotheses.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential to document pre-existing land use at the State School and the extent to which pre-existing structures were incorporated into the early school operation, and to provide a more detailed look at the entire physical layout of the school, farming at the school, its staff, and patients. Further documentary studies accompanied by archaeological survey and excavation can determine the locations of pre-existing structures on the school campus and establish whether these structures as well as those still extant were agricultural or residential in nature. At the time the school was started, existing structures were reportedly remodeled so that early boys at the school could use them as residences. Archaeological survivals can establish what and where these structures were as well as their final outcome in the school

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetWrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
MassachusettsSection number 8, 9 Page 8, 1

organization. Documentary research and archaeological survivals may also contribute data on the extent to which inmates at the school were used in school construction. A comparison of engineering specifications for school buildings or standard engineering practices for the time compared with archaeological survivals and structures still standing could determine the extent to which construction was altered or varied from specifications because of the type of labor used. Similar information could be retrieved from the school's farming operation. Analysis of occupational-related features from specific areas of the school can provide detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic lives of staff and patients at the School. This information can be useful in comparing the Wrentham School with other state facilities and the extent to which life at the school compared with civilian life. Analysis of structural remains and features associated with the school's agricultural area can also help document the extent to which these operations were important at the school, and details of the technologies used and crops grown.

(end)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Annual Reports of the Wrentham State School. 1906ff.
- Architectural Records/Drawings. Massachusetts State Archives.
- History of the Wrentham State School. internal history. 1989.
- Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth. Wrentham. MHC.
- Massachusetts Governor & Council. Report of the Committee on Charitable Institutions and the State House. 1945.
- Governor's Committee. Report of the Governor's Committee to Study State Hospitals. 1954.
- Massachusetts Medical Society. A Reference to the More Important Medical Institutions of Massachusetts. 1930.
- Senate Document #211. Report of the Committee on Public Institutions. 1924.
- Wallace, Dr. Anna M. "History of the Fernald School." 1941. Internal mimeographed publication.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Wrentham State School  
Wrentham (Norfolk County)  
Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

---

**GEOGRAPHIC DATA**

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached maps.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nomination is confined to the present campus boundaries that were achieved during the period of significance. The original 400 acres were increased to the present 700 acres by the 1920s.

(end)

**WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL  
WRENTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

<b>MAP#</b>	<b>BUILDING NAME</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>STYLE</b>	<b>ARCHITECT/DESIGNER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>RESOURCE</b>
1	A Building	1911	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
2	B Building	1912	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
3	C Building	1910	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
4	Hospital/D Building	1917	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
5	E Building	1910	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
6	F Building	1912	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
7	G Building	1917	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
8	L Building	1915	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
9	M Building	1915	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
10	O Building	1915	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
11	Tufts Dental Trailer	1977	n/a	n/a	NC	St
12	Oak Grove I	1930	Colonial Revival	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
13	Oak Grove II	1931	Colonial Revival	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
14	Oak Grove III	1932	Colonial Revival	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
15	Oak Grove IV	1936	Colonial Revival	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
16	Hospital	1951	Modern	G. S. McLaughlin Ass.	NC	B
17	Officers' House/Wallace	1916	Colonial Revival	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
18	Paquin	1939	Colonial Revival		C	B
19	Merrill Infirmary	1932	Colonial Revival	Clarence P. Hoyt	C	B
20	Administration	1914/1963	Colonial Revival	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
21	Quinn School	1956	Modern	Adden, Parker, Clinch & Crimp	NC	B
22	Auditorium	1922	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
23	Men's Vocational	1922	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
24	Women's Vocational	1922	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
25	Food Service Building	1908,1912, 1954	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
26	Laundry	1910	Utilitarian	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
27	Power House	1909,1912, 1958	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
28	Marion Moore	1951	Colonial Revival	John Guarino	NC	B
29	EH1	1909	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
30	EH2	1911	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
31	EH3	1913	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
32	EH4	1914	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
33	EH5	1914	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
34	EH6	1914	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
35	EH7	1914	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
36	EH8	1925	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B
37	EH9	1927	Craftsman	Kendall & Taylor	C	B

**WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL  
WRENTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MAP#	BUILDING NAME	DATE	STYLE	ARCHITECT/DESIGNER	STATUS	RESOURCE
38	Campus House	1933	Colonial Revival	James H. Ritchie Ass.	C	B
39	Elm Cottage (MHC-#226)	ca. 1850	Greek Revival Cape		C	B
40	garage	ca. 1950	n/a		NC	B
41	Maple Cottage (MHC-#225)	ca. 1850	Vernacular Cape		C	B
42	garage	ca. 1930	n/a		NC	B
43	Farmer's Cottage	1907	Vernacular Cape		C	B
44	garage	ca. 1950	n/a		NC	B
45	Supt. House (MHC-#227)	ca. 1790	Federal		C	B
46	garage	ca. 1920	n/a		C	B
47	Steward's Cottage (84 North)	1933	Colonial Revival		C	B
48	garage	ca. 1933	Colonial Revival		C	B
49	Poplar Cottage (162 Emerald)	1910	vernacular Colonial Rev.		C	B
50	garage	ca. 1950	n/a		NC	B
51	87 North Street Cottage	1913	Vernacular Colonial Revival		C	B
52	garage	ca. 1950	n/a		NC	B
53	Asst. Supt. Hse. (MHC-#236)	1805	Federal		C	B
54	garage	ca. 1950	n/a		NC	B
55	Dairy Barn	1922	Utilitarian		C	B
56	Brooder House	ca. 1920s	Utilitarian		C	B
57	Hen House (foundation)	ca. 1920s	n/a		C	St
58	Metal Shed	ca. 1970s	n/a		NC	B
59	Metal Shed	ca. 1970s	n/a		NC	B
60	Concrete Shed	ca. 1920s	Utilitarian		C	B
61	Metal Water Tower	ca. 1950s	n/a		NC	St
62	Metal Water Tower	ca. 1950s	n/a		NC	St
63	Sewage/Sand Filter	1969	n/a		NC	St
64	Sewage Treatment	1969	n/a		NC	St
65	Incinerator	1954	n/a		NC	St
66	Heffron Hall A	1968	Utilitarian		NC	B
67	Heffron Hall B	1968	Utilitarian		NC	B
68	Farm Shed/Grounds Crew	ca. 1953	n/a		NC	B
69	Horse Barn/Farm Office	1907	Utilitarian		C	B
70	Tractor Garage	1907	Utilitarian		C	B
71	Tractor Garage	1965	n/a		NC	B
72	Vegetable Storage Shed	1913	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
73	Maintenance Shed	ca. 1970s	n/a		NC	B
74	Main Garage	1930	Utilitarian		C	B
75	K Ward Site	1913	n/a	Kendall & Taylor	C	Si
76	Medical Building	1988	Modern		NC	B
77	Ewalt Nursery	1963	Modern		NC	B

**WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL  
WRENTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

<b>MAP#</b>	<b>BUILDING NAME</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>STYLE</b>	<b>ARCHITECT/DESIGNER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>RESOURCE</b>
78	Pavilion	ca. 1980s	Modern		NC	St
79	Cemetery	ca. 1910	n/a		C	Si
80	Bus Shelter	ca. 1970s	n/a		NC	St
81-84	Fair Ground Sheds	ca. 1980s	n/a		(4)NC	B
85	Fair Viewing Stand	ca. 1980s	n/a		NC	St
86	ICF Building	ca. 1980s	Modern		NC	B
87	ICF Building	ca. 1980s	Modern		NC	B
88	ICF Building	ca. 1980s	Modern		NC	B
89	Schoolhouse Site	1913	n/a	Kendall & Taylor	C	Si
90	Farm Dorm Site	1907	n/a	Kendall & Taylor	C	Si
91	Farm Dorm Site	1907	n/a	Kendall & Taylor	C	Si
92	Central Green	ca. 1907	n/a		C	Si
93	Secondary Green	ca. 1907	n/a		C	Si
94	Front Lawn (Emerald St.)	ca. 1907	n/a		C	Si
95	Agricultural Land	ca. 1907	n/a		C	Si

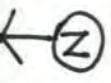
TOTAL RESOURCES: 61 Contributing; 34 Noncontributing

51 Contributing Buildings	25 Noncontributing Buildings
9 Contributing Sites	9 Noncontributing Structures
1 Contributing Structure	



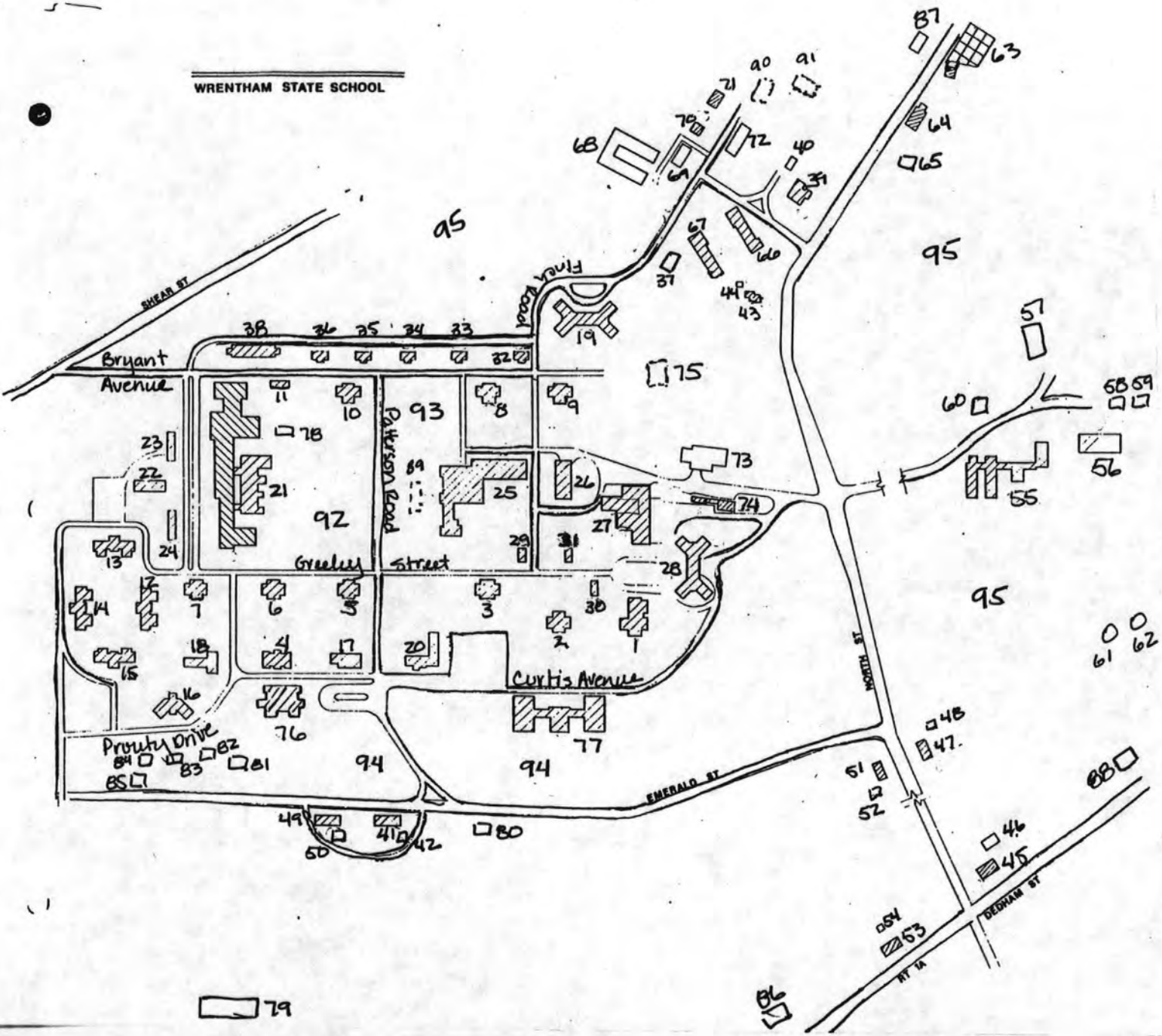
Nursery  
Elementary  
Canteen  
Triplex

WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL





WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL



79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wrentham State School

MULTIPLE NAME: Massachusetts State Hospitals And State Schools MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 12/09/93      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/21/93  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/06/94      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/23/94  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93001490

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: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1/21/94 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically & architecturally significant early 20th century mental health care facility established for the care of children. This 700 acre campus meets the property type registration requirements established in the NPS cover form.*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept AEC  
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 1/21/94

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

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

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



#2-5 12/91

E Building

Wentham State School

Wentham, MA

Candace Jenkins, photographer

17 State St, Belmont, MA - neg. location

View facing NE



~~11/2~~

9/21 Wrentham 11/92

Oak Grove



9-23 Wrentham 11/92

A Ward



9-24 Wrentham u/92  
Award



2-6 Wrentham 12/91

Marion Moore



2-4 Wrentham 12/91

Campus House



2-B Wrentham 12/91  
Farm Group



a-20 Wrentham 11/92  
Boys Industrial



2-7 Wrentham 12/91

Laundry



2-9 Wrentham 12/91  
5 North St.



2-3 Wrentham 12/91

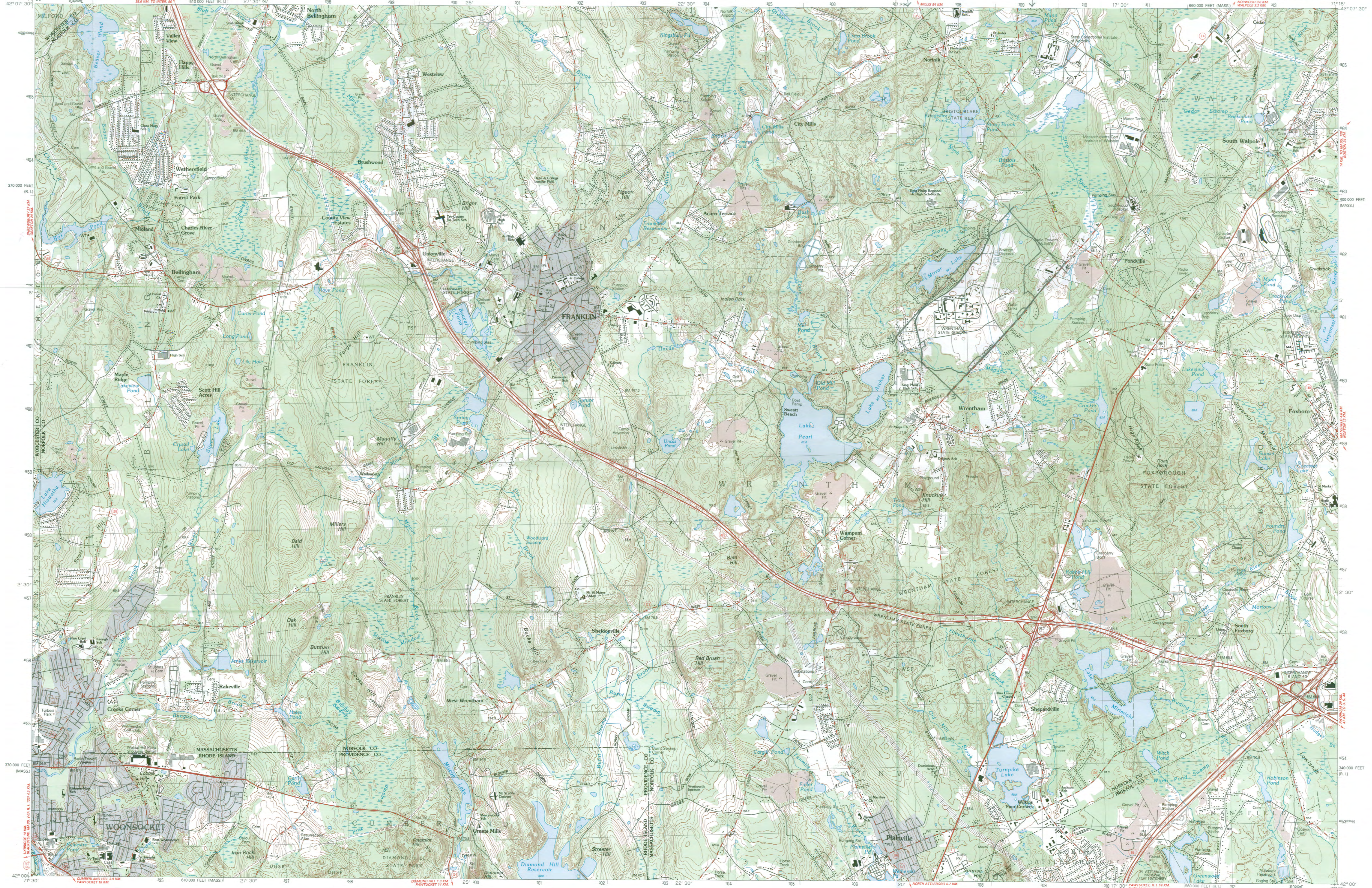
EH4



9-22 Wrentham 11/92  
Admin.



9-19 Wrentham 11/92  
L Ward Food Service



# Franklin

MASSACHUSETTS—  
RHODE ISLAND  
1:25 000-scale metric  
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE  
SHOWING

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



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987 450324

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

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and State of Rhode Island agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1987. The west half of this area also covered by 7.5-minute, 1:24 000-scale map: State Line dated 1973

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19  
Universal Transverse Mercator  
1000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system 1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. There may be private buildings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1929  
CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS				
Meters	Feet	Diagram		1	2	3		
2	6.5617			4	5			
4	13.1234			6	7	8		
6	19.6851							
8	26.2468							
10	32.8085							
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808				UTM grid convergence (GM) at center of map (declination) (DM) Diagram is approximate		1 Millard	2 Medford	3 Norwood
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048						4 Ludlow	5 Brockton	6 Georgetown
						7 Attleboro	8 Taunton	

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR 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
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Bathys area: only selected 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
- Force or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U.S. National monument
- Well; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index, intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, levee, sand
- Bathymetric contours: index, intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Shaded, large and small; lake, large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available, on request