

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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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  in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 FISHER SCHOOL - HIGH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

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

2. Location

street & number 748-850; 751-823 HIGH STREET not for publication

city or town WESTWOOD vicinity

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county NORFOLK code 021 zip code 02090

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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*

5/10/2000  
Date

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or 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 this 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 Andrews*

6/30/00

Fisher School HD  
Name of Property

Norfolk, MA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
18	8	building
1		sites
1		structures
		objects
20	8	Total

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

n/a

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

n/a

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- EDUCATION: school
- RELIGION: religious facility
- FUNERARY: cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- EDUCATION: school
- RELIGION: religious facility
- FUNERARY: cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EARLY REPUB. – Federal
- MID 19<sup>th</sup> C. – Greek Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN – Italianate
- LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS – Colonial R.

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE, CONCRETE
- walls WOOD- weatherboard, shingled
- BRICK SYNTHETICS
- roof STONE – slate ASPHALT
- other

**Narrative Description**

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

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Continuation Sheet****Fisher School – High Street Historic District  
Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.**Section number 7 Page 1**7. DESCRIPTION**

The Fisher School-High Street District, located in Westwood, Massachusetts, consists of twenty contributing resources that line both sides of High Street southwest of the commercial village center. Westwood, once part of Dedham, lies approximately seventeen miles southwest of Boston just outside the Route 128 circular route (now part of I-95). The town is at the center of Norfolk County and next to Dedham, the County seat. The district is one of two linear districts along one of two major routes through Westwood.

The small district, lining both sides of High Street, is residential at the edge of the commercial district and consists of nineteenth century dwellings on small lots of which only one residential lot, 754 High Street, exceeds three-quarters of an acre. Surrounding areas are characterized by mid-twentieth century commercial centers at each end of the district along High Street and modest residential development west on Hartford and High Rock Streets. East of the district is town owned land, conservation area and wetlands bordering on large lots that front on Thatcher Street. The commercial center on the north end of the Fisher School-High Street District consists of two strip malls on the west side and a gas station and a couple of commercial buildings on the east side separating this district from the Colburn School-High Street District. Formerly these parcels on High Street at Gay and Hartford Streets were important nineteenth century dwellings and estates consistent with the development of the full length of High Street that was known as West Dedham Village. The intrusions created by the demolition and new construction are significant enough to necessitate the formation of two High Street districts. The Colburn School-High Street District, which also lines both sides of High Street north of Gay Street, has eighteenth and nineteenth dwellings and barns as well as a number of civic buildings.

The district boundaries follow property lines. Included in the twenty properties are two schools, one church, one cemetery, and sixteen residences of which six are non-contributing due to their mid-twentieth century construction dates. Outbuildings include five barns and two garages. Three of the barns are attached to the associated nineteenth century dwelling. The one structure is the wrought iron fence surrounding the Cemetery, important for its design and construction at a foundry within the district boundaries.

Key to the district is the linear village setting on each side of the High Street anchored by the West Dedham Cemetery at the southeast end. The topography of the district is consistent with eighteenth and nineteenth century village main streets on a relatively flat terrain through the community. Formerly the setbacks of the dwellings were deeper. Road widening, shoulders and a sidewalk on the west side account for the closer proximity of the dwellings to the roadway.

Buildings in the district are domestic in scale and context, and include two and one-half story gable roof dwellings with center entrances for the most part. Most are well preserved, displaying wood clapboard or shingle siding. The only masonry building in the district is the 1939 former Westwood High School, now the Thurston Middle School. Five of the historic properties have been covered with synthetic siding, and all but one of these retains the wood trim.

**(continued)**

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All of the historic residences date from the first half of the nineteenth century. The First Baptist Church structure (Photo # 3) dates from 1809, when the timbers of the Clapboardtrees meetinghouse (1731) were reassembled for the Baptist Society, and the High School has the late construction date of 1939. The Cemetery (Photo # 1) spans the period of significance with the earliest burial of 1752. Nearly all properties represent the transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival period with several examples of Italianate updating. Nearly all dwellings display the common center entrance double pile plan with a five-bay facade. One dwelling, 51-53 High Street, was built as a two-family and has symmetrical side entrances with a gable front facade.

Non-contributing resources include six properties, four of which are modest capes or ranch style houses built by 1950. The setback of these dwellings is deeper than the nineteenth century dwellings and all are built on a stretch of land between the Baptist Parsonage and the driveway to the church. One of these dwellings, 776 High Street was built within the period of significance, however, does not display a house type or style that was popular for the era, nor is it distinguished from the other post 1940s dwellings. Another neo-colonial house built in 1950, 775 High Street, which is non-contributing, now serves as professional offices. The other non-contributing building is a 1966 neo-colonial office building on the corner of High and High Rock Streets and is of similar scale and style to nearby nineteenth century dwellings. There are two non-contributing free standing garages located on properties of nineteenth century dwellings.

Descriptions of the contributing properties in the district follow and are presented in chronological order of construction date to convey the evolution of the district from the history of the structure of the First Baptist Church beginning in 1731 (as the Clapboardtrees or Third Parish) and extending to the construction of the former Westwood High School in 1939. Residential and institutional buildings are listed separately.

#### Residential Buildings

The Robert Steele House (ca. 1806, Map # 14-141, Photo # 5), located at 811 High Street displays the traditional center hall plan with twin chimneys that are set behind the ridge. In spite of the early date the five-bay, two and one-half story dwelling has Greek Revival detail in the proportions, eave overhang, and the detailing of the attached barn. Italianate updating of the 1870s includes one-story projecting bays in each gable end and a bold hipped-roof doorhood with scrolled molded brackets and drop finials.

The Baptist Parsonage (1824, Map # 14-135, Photo # 6), at 766 High Street, retains its massing, fenestration and center hall plan with twin chimneys set at the ridge. Although covered with synthetic siding the molded framed window surrounds and six-over-six sash remain as evidence of its Greek Revival construction

The other eight dwellings were constructed between ca. 1830 and ca. 1840 and all but one display the traditional gable roof, two and one-half story facade with Greek Revival and Italianate architectural detail. The two ca. 1830 dwellings each displaying a center chimney plan are the five-bay Daniel Evileth House (748 High Street, Map #14-133) and the three-bay George W. Stone House (754 High Street Map #14-134). The Daniel

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Evileth House has been updated with shingle siding, a projecting bay and an open Colonial Revival porch. It retains its six-over-six windows set in slightly projecting molded frames of which the first-story windows are the long Greek Revival style. The George W. Stone House retains Greek Revival massing and the center entrance surround is of note with tapered pilasters carrying a wide entablature with a half-round leaded fanlight and a deep molded lintel.

The dwelling at 765 High Street, the Elijah Wheelock House (ca. 1840, Map #14-154, Photo # 4) has a door surround similar to that of the George W. Stone House which is nearly opposite on High Street. The Elijah Wheelock House is one of the best preserved in the district and retains its twin interior chimneys set at the ridge, its six-over-six sash, and trim boards of simple or no detail.

The house at 757 High Street, recorded as the Joseph Fisher/Lowell Parker House (ca. 1835, Map #14-155, Photo # 4) for its best known early owners, is a variation of the traditional plan and has a six-bay facade, thus an off-set entrance, and two chimneys that are set just inside the exterior gable end walls. Windows have nine-over-six sash and are set in plain flat wood frames. One side ell appears to be of the period of the house, although it has been reworked, and the other on the north side, the attached garage (on the south side) and the enclosed entrance porch are twentieth century additions.

Two adjacent properties, 783 High Street and 793 High Street (ca. 1836, Map #14-152) and (ca. 1840, Map #14-151) both were built by Benjamin H. Tubbs. Tubbs house at 783 High Street has only a three-bay facade and displays Italianate updating with the roundheaded lights in the door and the projecting molded doorhood. The residence at 793 High Street does not have a common plan and may have been converted from an outbuilding. The street side is four bays with no entrance. The now attached barn has mid nineteenth century features.

The final dwelling displaying the traditional plan and built before 1850 is the Daniel Parker House (ca. 1840, Map #21-045, Photo # 5) at 823 High Street. Although covered with vinyl siding, the house retains Greek Revival templar gable ends each with two small windows in the peak, its five-bay facade, twin chimneys at the ridge, and molded trim. The only variation in dwellings from the two-story, gable roof, center entrance plan is the two-family house at 751-753 High Street (ca. 1840, Map #14-156), built by Joseph Fisher who lived on an adjacent estate that is no longer extant. This two-family is the only gable front dwelling on this section of High Street and displays the Greek Revival full templar two-bay gable front with flanking side entrance porches.

Some properties retain the nineteenth century barn which recalls the evolution of these village properties. Barns are near the dwelling and in most cases attached to the rear or side ell of the house. One of the better examples is the attached barn at 811 High Street which retains its clapboard siding, large sliding door and nine-over-six sash. Also a good example is attached to 748 High Street. At 793 High Street is an attached gable front barn with large vertical board sliding barn door, a hay door above and six-over-six sash. The barn at 765 High Street is a separate one and one-half story building with large barn and small hay doors and rests on a fieldstone and mortar foundation.

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Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.Section number 7 Page 4Institutional Properties

The First Baptist Church (1731/1809, Map #14-140, Photo # 3) now is located at 808 High Street. The original structure served as the Clapboard Trees Meetinghouse when built on Clapboardtree Street in 1731. The building was dismantled and timbers reassembled in 1809 opposite the Cemetery on High Street. The present condition is reflective of the 1989 move to this site. The building retains its well preserved meetinghouse form and displays a three-bay gable front facade and is five bays deep. The center entrance is wider than the flanking entrance doors and all three have narrow paneled pilaster surrounds with diamond cut corner blocks. In the gable peak with raking boxed cornice is an elliptical louvered fan. All windows have six-over-six sash set in plain frames with flanking wood louvered shutters. The small two stage square tower, ca. 1851, has pointed arched louvered openings and a crenelated top with pointed corner finials.

Like the Church, the District # 9 School (Map #21-047, Photo #2), also known as the Fisher School, recently was moved to 830 High Street and currently is being restored by the Westwood Historical Society. Built in 1845 at the corner of Milk and Clapboardtree Streets, it is a fine example of a Greek Revival Style one-room schoolhouse. The main facade features a full templar pediment carried by pilasters and having a recessed entrance. The two schoolhouse doors are set in the corners and face one another within the recess. In the pediment is a half-round louvered fan. The schoolhouse is four bays deep with twelve-over-twelve sash and flanking louvered shutters. Besides the Greek Revival architectural details many original nineteenth century features remain including horsehair plaster walls. Blackboards, chalk trays, coat rooms, flooring and paneling.

Of a much later construction date is the former Westwood High School, (1939, Map # 21-047, Photo # 2), located on the northeast corner of Nahatan and High Streets at 850 High Street. Prior to its construction there were two schools; the Colburn on High Street and the Islington off Washington Street. The smaller one and two room schools, such as the District #9, had been closed at the turn of the century and high school students attended Dedham or Norwood High School. This building of modern design recalls Colonial Revival features such as the wide pediment over a slightly projecting section on the main facade, the three-part multi-light windows in strings of four and an attenuated cupola on the earlier section of the building.

The West Dedham Cemetery (Map #21-088, Photo # 1), at the corner of Nahatan, Pond and High Streets was established by the first families settling in West Dedham and first was used in 1752. There are approximately 300 stones spanning the years from the first known recorded burial of 1752 to the present. The cemetery retains many natural plantings of trees and shrubs. The most striking feature is the detailed wrought iron fence that was made in 1843 by Benjamin Tubbs who lived and worked in this district establishing the Tubbs Iron Foundry at 783 to 793 High Street from 1836.

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Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.Section number 7 Page 5**Archaeological Description**

While no prehistoric sites are recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. Four sites have been documented in the general area. Environmental characteristics of the district represent several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of prehistoric sites. Much of the district includes well drained, level to moderately sloping terraces in close proximity (within 1000 feet) of Rock Meadow Brook, Fisher Meadow and Lymans Pond. Land surfaces in the area generally slope up from west to east from Rock Meadow Brook to Fox Hill and the Lymans Pond locale. Rock Meadow Brook beginning at Fisher Meadow is a tributary of the Charles River. Lymans Pond is part of the Neponset River drainage. Given the above information and impacts from historic development, a moderate to high potential exists for locating prehistoric sites in the district.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. Structural, feature and artifact evidence may survive associated with residential, civic and industrial buildings no longer extant as well as structures still present in the district. By 1818 at least three residences were located on High Street in the district of which only one building, the Robert Steele House (1806) at 811 high street survives. Structural evidence from the two buildings lost as well as earlier structures destroyed before 1818 and structures built after that date that no longer survive today. Many 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century residences may have actually been parts of farmsteads, possibly dairy farms in the area. Archaeological resources associated with civic or religious structures may also be present in the district. Outbuildings, possibly carriage sheds or barns may exist with the First Baptist Church originally constructed in 1731 on Clapboardtree Street then dismantled and re-assembled in 1809 at its present site opposite the cemetery on High Street. Similar evidence of structures associated with the cemetery might also exist after it was established in 1752. Archaeological evidence from the Tubbs Iron Foundry may also survive in the district. Archaeological evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also survive in the district associated with the archaeological sites described above and the 19<sup>th</sup> century residences still extant in the area. Unmarked graves may exist at the West Dedham Cemetery associated with pauper burials or graves that have had stones removed.

(end)

Fisher School HD

Name of Property

Norfolk, MA

County and State

**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 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1752-1950

**Significant Dates**

1809

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/a

**Architect/Builder**

N/a

**Primary location of additional data:**

- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Dedham, Westwood Historical Societies

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Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.**Section number 8 Page 1**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fisher School-High Street District is a well preserved cluster of predominately residential resources at the heart of the village. The district retains examples of nineteenth century residential architecture and nineteenth and twentieth century educational and religious properties. Intrusions are few and are clustered together retaining the residential setting in size of lots and smaller scale of modest housing. The Fisher School District retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and fulfills Criteria A and C and Criteria Consideration B for the relocation of the Baptist Church and the Fisher School after the period of significance.

Incorporated in 1897, Westwood originally was part of Dedham and known as West Dedham from the early eighteenth century. The West Dedham Parish, also known as the Clapboard Trees or Third Parish, was established in 1731 by a number of Dedham residents living on the outskirts of Dedham Village. By 1765 the Third Parish had 54 families living in 43 houses. With development along the Medfield Road (now High Street) and Hartford Turnpike there was interest among some in relocating the meetinghouse. A dispute arose and the result was a new meetinghouse constructed in the same location, following the dismantling of the old. Nahatan Street had been laid out in 1807 and completed in 1809 when the dismantled meetinghouse was purchased by Aaron Baker who had it moved down Nahatan Street and reconstructed at the center - at Pond and High Streets - as the Baptist Meeting House. Thus the establishment of High Street as the Village center with the Cemetery and Meetinghouse at one end and an eighteenth century Village Schoolhouse at the other end of High Street, near the Ellis Tavern (549 High Street) was solidified.

The economy of West Dedham was based on subsistence farming and a number of saw, grist and cider mills. Also there were a number of blacksmith shops, iron foundry, brass foundry and other cottage industries such as hat making and slaughterhouses. By 1845, the village of the Third Parish had 124 residences. With the advent of the railroad in 1849 the industrial center shifted away from High Street to Washington Street and to South Dedham, now Norwood, due to the location of the railroad stops. Thus this area of Westwood (the former Third Parish) resorted to an agricultural economy with dairy farming as the largest industry.

During the mid 1800s a number of Irish immigrants found their way to Westwood in part due to missionary efforts of civic minded residents including Betsy Baker, a former teacher and founder of the Baptist Society and Benjamin Tubbs who owned property in the district and established an iron foundry.

Throughout the periods of development West Dedham Village along High Street demonstrated growth in a linear fashion with residences, institutional uses, and commercial properties along the High Street. At the intersections of High Street with Gay and Hartford Streets were several important properties of Fishers and Bakers that were lost after the 1950s. They were residences with commercial uses attached and linked each end of High Street at the named crossroads. The loss of four to six important early 19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings and estates divided High Street into two distinct districts with similar development patterns but with a distinct interruption between the Fisher School – High Street District and the Colburn School – High Street District.

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The establishment of West Dedham Village along High Street was slow from the early 1800s. Although the Cemetery (photo #1) had been established in 1752, it was not until 1809 that the meetinghouse was re-erected opposite the Cemetery. By 1818 there were twelve dwellings on High Street between the Baptist Meetinghouse and Cemetery and Fox Hill Road, of which three were in the boundaries of this Fisher School – High Street District. The first known house was the Robert Steele House (Map #14-141, ca. 1806, Photo #5) at 811 High Street. Steele (1758-1833) was best known for his role as a drummer at Bunker Hill during the American Revolution. He married in 1806 and probably built this house at that time. He wrote a detailed description of the battle at Bunker Hill. Also Steele was a drummer in 1825 when General Lafayette dedicated the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument. The other two pre-1818 dwellings on this section of High Street are no longer extant.

The remaining dwellings of the district were constructed between 1830-1845. Various trades are represented by those living here during the 1800s. One of the most prominent local families was the Fisher family whose estate is no longer extant with the exception of the barn that is incorporated into the Stage Coach Mall, just outside this district. Joseph Fisher (1805-1880) was a manufacturer of carriages and harnesses and a horse trader. He built the double house at 751-753 High Street (Map #14-156, ca. 1840) having purchased the small half-acre lot adjacent to his estate in 1836. Fisher also owned the ca. 1835 dwelling at 757 High Street (Map #14-155, Photo #4) which changed hands several times and clearly was investment property for Fisher who owned it in the 1830s and again in the 1850s. In the late 1800s, Fisher's son George Fisher (1830-1887), lived at 748 High Street (Map #14-133, ca. 1830), opposite his boyhood home (no longer extant). He was a horse dealer working with his father.

Several of the mid nineteenth century owners were farmers including Thomas Wiggin who preceded George Fisher at 748 High Street, George W. Stone at 754 High Street (Map #14-134, ca. 1830) and Elijah Wheelock and later Moses Richardson both in 765 High Street (Map #14-156, ca. 1840, Photo # 4). The 1898 Bird's Eye View of Westwood shows attached barns and silos for many of the properties along High Street.

Other occupations represented in the district were iron monger, blacksmith, dairyman, and minister. Benjamin Tubbs (1805-1854) purchased land on the west side of High Street in 1836 and established his residence and an iron foundry at 783 and 793 High Street (Map #s 14-152 and 14-151). The foundry produced cast iron stoves, fire frames and decorative wrought iron work including the fence surrounding the West Dedham Cemetery which was commissioned and paid for by the two congregations, the Unitarians and the Baptists. Also a decorative fence surrounding the early 1800s Dedham Court House located in Dedham Center was made by Tubbs. Tubbs Foundry eventually was purchased by Bay State Foundry of Norwood which was the firm commissioned to repair the Cemetery Fence (Photo # 1) in the 1960s.

Francis Soule returned from the Civil War and established residence at 793 High Street and ran the blacksmith shop of Reuben Guild which was located at 702 High Street, no longer extant. The milk business of Gay and

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Wilbur was located at 754 High Street. From 1856 until his death, Albert Gay (1820-1889) lived on this two-acre parcel which formerly had a large attached barn with silo.

The Baptist Church (Photo # 3) was located at the intersection of High and Pond Streets from 1809 until 1889. In 1824 Milly Fisher built a dwelling for the minister at 766 High Street (Map #14-135, Photo # 6), and willed it the Baptist Society in 1838 at the time of her death. The house remained the residence of the Baptist Church minister until the 1980s when it was sold into private ownership. The minister and resident of the property at the turn of the century, the Reverend Lewis Eaton (1854-1930), retired in 1918 and moved to 783 High Street in 1920. Eaton's ancestors remain in this house today. In 1989 the Baptist Church was moved to its new location at 808 High Street (Map #14-140, Photo # 3). The move provided opportunity to expand the school and office space, however, it did remove the excellent meetinghouse example from frequent public view.

The schools in the district represent the continuum of educational history. By the early 1800s three of Dedham's district schools were located in West Dedham - District #8 Village School on High Street, District #9 School on Clapboardtree Street, and District #10 School at Bubbling Brook. The District #8 School was replaced in 1847 by the Village School (649 High Street) and the 1806 District #9 School was replaced by the 1845 building today located at 830 High Street (Map # 14-347, Photo # 2). When Dedham abolished district numbers in 1867, the District #9 School was renamed in honor of Ebenezer Fisher (17??-1847), a prosperous West Dedham farmer, Revolutionary veteran, and legislator who bequeathed \$600 to the school. Thus the 1845 Fisher School, first known as the District #9 School, was one of three West Dedham schools in use when Westwood was incorporated in 1897. The other two were the 1874 Colburn School, now the School Administration Building, at 660 High Street and the 1884 Wentworth School, now the Islington Library, at 270 Washington Street. The size of the Fisher School is characteristic of a country schoolhouse of the mid 1800s, and is smaller than the village schoolhouse built at 649 High Street in 1847. The Fisher School was closed in 1905 and used for storage until it was donated to the Westwood Historical Society in 1994. Recently it was moved to school property within this district to protect the only remaining one-room schoolhouse representing rural education in Westwood. The 1939 Westwood High School (Map #14-047), now the Thurston Middle School, demonstrates the growth and development of the community and the need for a modern educational building just before World War II, thus contributes to the history of this village center. Prior to its construction Westwood paid for high school students to attend school in Dedham or Norwood. Thus the construction of this school represents the re-centralization of education in Westwood.

The West Dedham Cemetery (Photo # 1), now known as the Westwood Cemetery, is one of the oldest active cemeteries in the State. When established in 1752 the first burial was that of John Buckmaster, for whom Buckmaster Pond is named. The Cemetery is the burying ground of many members of families prominent throughout Town history and associated with this district - Bakers, Colburns, Ellises, Frenches, Gays, Fishers, as well as veterans of every war beginning with the Revolutionary War. One section without markers is known as the "Potter's Field". The Cemetery ties together all periods of development in Westwood and is interesting for its record, its design on the slope and its ornamentation of stones, crypts, and the wrought iron fence made by Benjamin Tubbs, ironmonger and resident of this district in the mid 1800s.

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Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.**Section number 8 Page 4

Modernization of the Town was well underway as West Dedham sought its independence and became Westwood in April 1897. Steam heat and electric lights were being installed in houses in the early 1890s. High Street had been lined with white picket fences some of which were removed in 1894 as the paper called them a "thing of the past" and recommended removal so that the lawns could easily be seen. A trolley line was laid along High Street by the Norfolk Western Street Railway which led to the widening of High Street and the removal of picket fences.

Today the Fisher School District retains a sense of the village past with nineteenth century houses lining High Street, the main route through the village, several retaining their nineteenth century barns, and with the educational and religious institutions to emphasize the importance of those activities in coalescing a village center.

**Archaeological Significance**

Since patterns of prehistoric settlement in Westwood are poorly documented, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can be important by providing information on upland/interior sites in general, especially those sites in the interior Charles and Neponset River drainages within which the district belongs. Prehistoric sites in this area may contain information that helps understand the extent to which river drainage boundaries influenced the social, cultural and economic systems of Native people who lived in the area. Wetlands bordering the western portion of the district drain northerly to the Charles River then easterly to the Boston Harbor locale. Immediately east of the district, drainage is through the Neponset River watershed with several important and large multi-component sites located along the Neponset River floodplain approximately 4 miles to the east. Prehistoric sites in the district area may contain information that indicates the extent to which Native American social, cultural and economic systems were influenced by natural resources present in these different areas as well as the different Native cultural groups that occupied each area. Prehistoric sites in the district area can also help establish the nature of Native settlement in more upland/interior areas beyond the floodplains and middle to lower reaches of the major drainages stated above. Prehistoric sites in this area can be significant by more fully defining the local and regional subsistence and settlement models by contributing examples of site variability and resource use within the district area.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute social, cultural and economic information on a predominantly residential area of a linear village that developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Greater Boston area. Documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help reconstruct functional and temporal components of the district that no longer exist or are under-represented today. Structural evidence from outbuildings associated with the First Baptist Church can contribute information on the only 19<sup>th</sup> century civic building known to exist in the district. Similar remains associated with the nearby West Dedham Cemetery might also contribute examples of the only 18<sup>th</sup> century structures in the district. Construction features associated with the 1809 reconstruction of the 1731 Church structure may

**(continued)**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****Fisher School – High Street Historic District  
Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.**Section number 8 Page 5

also contain information that indicates the extent to which the reconstruction followed architectural details associated with the original structure. Archaeological resources associated with the Tubbs Iron Foundry can contribute information relating to the technological aspects of iron foundry operations and the products manufactured at the foundry. Archaeological evidence of residential structures can also contribute important information relating to the district's significance, especially potential 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century structures. Many of these early buildings were parts of farmsteads associated with the early settlement of the district and town, several of which were destroyed and replaced by later 19<sup>th</sup> century structures. Structural remains from outbuildings, including barns, sheds and other agriculturally related structures can also help reconstruct early farmsteads and important activities associated with residences and businesses. Archaeological remains from outbuildings can contribute important information relating to cottage industries and other subsistence related activities performed to supplement residential life. Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational related features can also contribute important information on the social, cultural and economic aspects of the lives of the district inhabitants. These studies can provide information relating to the activities of inhabitants of specific structures as well as provide a comparative base for extrapolations of the lives and activities of the inhabitants within the district and town. Unmarked graves and known burials associated with the West Dedham Cemetery can also provide a wealth of information on the district and town's inhabitants in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Physical and contextual evidence from individual graves can contribute information relating to mortuary or burial customs while osteological studies of human remains can contribute information relating to the physical characteristics of individuals and populations and general health and pathologies.

**(end)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Fisher School – High Street Historic District  
Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.

Section number 9 Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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1831

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(end)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Fisher School – High Street Historic District  
Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.

Section number 9 Page 2

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

UTM Coordinates

- 5. 19 316650 4676580
- 6. 19 316680 4676580
- 7. 19 316660 4676430
- 8. 19 316780 4676400
- 9. 19 316800 4676270
- 10. 19 316740 4676290
- 11. 19 316600 4676010
- 12. 19 316420 4676100
- 13. 19 316440 4676400
- 14. 19 316400 4676410
- 15. 19 316400 4676590
- 16. 19 316380 4676590
- 17. 19 316400 4676660
- 18. 19 316420 4676650
- 19. 19 316450 4676730
- 20. 19 316490 4676740

(continued)



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Fisher School – High Street Historic District  
Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.Section number 10 Page 1**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

## UTM Coordinates

5. 19 316200 4676100

6. 19 316760 4676620

Verbal Boundary Description

Properties within the Fisher School-High Street District are included on Assessor's Map #s 14 and 21 which show the included numbered lots and define the perimeter of the district. On Map #14 the district includes lots #133 through #142 and #151 through #156. On Map #21 the district includes lots #s45, 47 and 88. The roadways are included in the district as well and where the properties on both sides of the road are not included the boundary follows the center line of the road. This applies to that part of High Street, Nahatan and Pond in front of the schools and cemetery.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Fisher School-High Street District follow lot lines of properties that line High Street and make up the village district that evolved from the mid 1700s with the establishment of the Cemetery to the mid 1900s with the growth and construction of the school. Those properties that comprise the district are reflective of their nineteenth century boundaries and of the history of the families who settled in this section of West Dedham, now Westwood.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Fisher School – High Street Historic District  
Westwood (Norfolk Co.), Mass.**

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

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**Photographs**

1. West Dedham Cemetery, Nahatan, Pond and High Street
2. Fisher School and (old) Westwood High School, 830, 850 High Street
3. First Baptist Church, 808 High Street
4. Wheelock/Fisher-Parker/Fisher Houses, 765, 757, 751-753 High Street
5. Parker/Steele/Tubbs Houses, 823,811,793/783 High Street
6. Parsonage/Stone/Evelith Houses, 766, 754, 748 High Street

**FISHER SCHOOL - HIGH STREET DISTRICT  
WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS**

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
748 High St.	42	14-133	Daniel Evileth attached barn	ca. 1830 ca. 1850	Greek Revival Greek Revival	C C	B B
751-753 High	37	14-156	Joseph Fisher	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C	B
754 High St.	41	14-134	George W. Stone	ca. 1830	Federal	C	B
757 High St.	16	14-155	J. Fisher / L. Parker	ca. 1835	Federal/GR	C	B
765 High St. " " "	15	14-154	Elijah Wheelock barn	ca. 1840 ca. 1850	Federal Greek Revival	C C	B B
766 High St. " " "	74	14-135	Baptist Parsonage 2-car garage	1824 ca. 1940s	Greek Revival none	C NC	B B
775 High St.	38	14-153	n/a	1950	neo-colonial	NC	B
776 High St.	539	14-136	n/a	1935	eclectic	NC	B
780 High St.	540	14-137	n/a	1950	ranch	NC	B
783 High St. " " "	39	14-152	Benjamin H. Tubbs barn/garage	ca. 1836 ca. 1900	GR/Italianate	C C	B B
790 High St.	541	14-138	n/a	1946	Cape	NC	B
793 High St. " " "	40	14-151	Benjamin H. Tubbs attached barn	ca. 1840 ca. 1840	altered	C C	B B

**FISHER SCHOOL - HIGH STREET DISTRICT  
WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS**

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>MAP#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
798 High St.	542	14-139	n/a	1946	Cape	NC	B
805 High St.	543	14-142	n/a	1966	neo-colonial	NC	B
808 High St.	13	14-140	First Baptist Church	1731/ 1809	Georgian Meetinghouse	C	B
811 High St.	75	14-141	Robert Steele	ca. 1806	GR/Italianate	C	B
“ “ “			attached barn	ca. 1850	Greek Revival	C	B
823 High St.	76	21-045	Daniel Parker	ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C	B
“ “ “			one-car garage	ca. 1950s	neo-colonial	NC	B
830 High St.	57	21-347	District #9/Fisher School	1845	Greek Revival	C	B
850 High St.	103	21-047	Westwood High School	1939	Neo-Colonial	C	B
High/Nahatan	801	21-088	West Dedham Cemetery	1752- ongoing		C	Si
“ “	912	21-088	Tubb's Iron Fence	1843	Federal/GR	C	St

TOTAL RESOURCES: 20 Contributing; 8 Noncontributing

18 Contributing Buildings      8 Non-contributing Buildings  
 1 Contributing Site  
 1 Contributing Structure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fisher School--High Street Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 5/18/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/30/00  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/15/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/02/00  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000687

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:  NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically and architecturally significant district*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept ASC

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 6/30/00

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



West Dedham Cemetery

Nahatan. Pond + High Streets

Westwood. Norfolk County, MA

Photographer: Gretchen G. Schuler

Negative: Westwood Historical Commission

November 1997

Looking east, northeast

Photo #1



Fisher School and Westwood High School  
830 + 850 High Street

Fisher School - High Street District  
Westwood, Norfolk County, MA

Photographer: Gretchen G. Schuler  
Negative: Westwood Historical Commission

November 1997  
Looking southeast  
Photo # 2



First Baptist Church  
808 High Street

Fisher School - High Street District  
Westwood, Norfolk County, MA

Photographer: Gretchen G. Schuler

Negative: Westwood Historical Commission

November 1997

Looking east

Photo # 3



Wheelock / Fisher-Parker / Fisher Houses

765, 757, 751-753 High Street

Fisher School - High Street District

Westwood, Norfolk County, MA

Photographer: Gretchen G. Schuler

Negative: Westwood Historical Commission

November 1997

Looking northwest

Photo # 4



Parker | Steele | Tubbs Houses

823      811      793/783 High Street

Fisher School - High Street District

Photographer: Gretchen G. Schueler

Negatives: Westwood Historical Commission

Looking north, north west

Photo #5

November 1997



Parsonage / Stone / Swilth Houses  
746 754 748

Fisher School - High Street District

Photographer: Gretchen G. Schulz

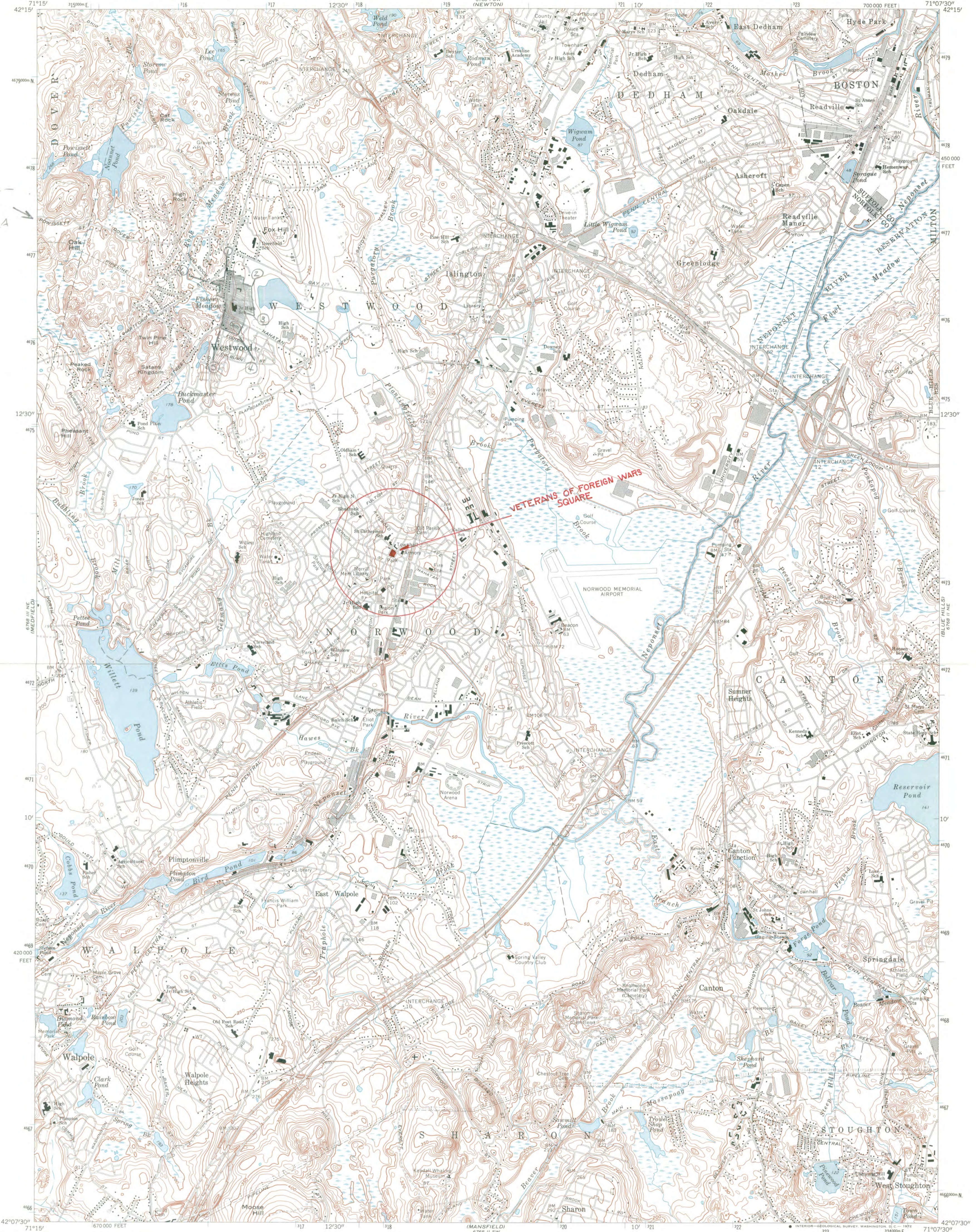
Negatives: Westwood Historical Comm.

Location north northwest

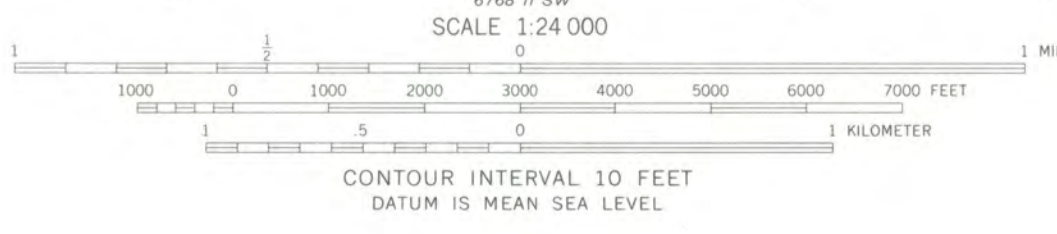
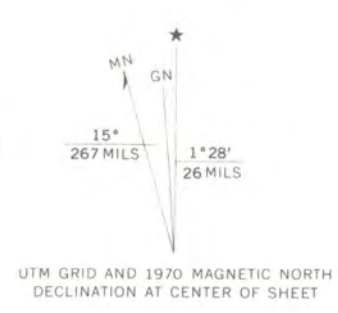
Photo # 6

November 1997

FISHER SCHOOL -  
HIGH ST. HD  
WESTWOOD MA  
UTM S  
ZONE 19  
1) E 316900  
N 4676780  
2) E 316760  
N 4676600  
3) E 316350  
N 4676260  
4) E 316140  
N 4676100  
5) E 316200  
N 4676100  
6) E 316760  
N 4676620



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Harbor and Land  
Commission, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NORWOOD, MASS.  
N4207.5-W7107.5/7.5  
1970  
AMS 6768 II NW-SERIES V814

# TOWN OF WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS



Westwood, MA  
Fisher School- High Street  
District

# → = photograph

Westwood, MA  
Fisher School-  
High Street  
District

Revised To  
January 1, 1995

THESE MAPS ARE FOR PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION ONLY

REVISED BY AVIS AIRMAP INC., BRAintree, MASS, SEPT, 1983  
AVIS, MAY, 1985  
AVIS, JUNE, 1988  
AVIS, MAY, 1988



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LAST NUMBER USED 346  
NUMBERS AVAILABLE 257, 317



13	14	15
20	21	22
28	29	30

3-12-97

TOWN OF WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS



Westwood, MA  
Fisher School - High Street  
District

(#) → = photograph

First Baptist Church

See map 21

Revised To  
January 1, 1995

THESE MAPS ARE FOR PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION ONLY  
REVISED BY AVIS AIRMAP INC., BRANTREE, MASS. SEPT. 1983 AVIS, MAY, 1988  
AVIS, MAY, 1985 AVIS, DEC, 1989  
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LAST NUMBER USED ITS  
NUMBERS AVAILABLE



8	9	10
13	14	15
20	21	22

3-12-97



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

10 May 2000

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Fisher School – High Street Historic District, Westwood (Norfolk Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties included in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Jerry Cronin, Chair, Westwood Historical Commission  
Gretchen Schuler, Preservation Consultant  
Anthony Antonellis, Chair, Westwood Board of Selectmen  
Jack Wiggins, Chair, Westwood Planning Board



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

August 17, 2000

Mr. Patrick Andrus  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street  
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 25 2000

REGISTER, HISTORIC  
NATION  
SERVICE

Re: Fisher School Historic District, Westwood (Norfolk), MA

Dear Patrick:

As requested, enclosed please find a USGS map for the district with UTM points marked. I have reduced the number of UTM points to a more manageable number and have also enclosed new pages to the nomination which reflect these changes. These can be added to the nomination.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thank you for noticing and correcting the nomination.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Bergen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "P" and "B".

Philip Bergen  
Preservation Planner  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosures