



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

February 22, 2011

## Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Athol High School

other names/site number Athol Regional Junior High School

## 2. Location

street & number 494 School Street

city or town Athol

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01331

☐ not for publication

☐ vicinity

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Brona Simon

December 29, 2010

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MA Historical Commission

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

per Edson H. Beall

Signature of the Keeper

2.18.11

Date of Action

Athol High School  
Name of Property

Worcester, MA  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - Local   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - State   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - Federal |

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | district    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | site        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | structure   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | object      |

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1            | 0               | buildings    |
| 0            | 0               | district     |
| 0            | 0               | site         |
| 2            | 0               | structure    |
| 0            | 0               | object       |
| 3            | 0               | <b>Total</b> |

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

N/A

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

None

## 6. Function or Use

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

Education, school

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

Vacant/Not in Use

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## 7. Description

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

Art Deco

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick, stone, concrete

roof: Asphalt

other:

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Athol High School in Athol, Worcester County, Massachusetts, is a flat-roofed, H-plan building composed of two 1915 sections (formerly the added wings of an 1892 structure on the site) and a main central block and rear additions (1937) to the 1915 wings (**Photograph 1**). The building is sited on a slight rise from School Street, south of the Millers River and the Springfield Terminal railroad tracks; the building is approximately ½ mile south and west of Athol's center. The surrounding neighborhood is mostly composed of single and multi-family houses from the late 19th century (**Photograph 7**). A low granite wall on the property separates the front lawn of the building from the sidewalk and is a contributing resource; the wall predates the 1937 construction, and likely dates to the 1890s. Directly behind (north) the building, the land rises relatively steeply and is mostly wooded. Two concrete-tie retaining walls at the rear, which date to 1937, also comprise a contributing structure.

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### Narrative Description

The Athol High School is located on School Street in Athol, Worcester County, Massachusetts, about a half mile from the town center. The H-plan structure consists of a central 1937 section and two side wings which originally dated to 1915. The 1915 wings had originally been added to a central section dating to 1892, which was demolished in 1937 for the new central section. A gymnasium section, also dating to 1937, is on the rear of one of the wings. Several late 19<sup>th</sup> century residences are still extant in the neighborhood, while the area just north of the school is wooded.

The entire building is two stories with a raised basement, and is of load-bearing brick construction, with a warm red brick exterior. The recessed main block, which has a central entrance and two major bays on each side, is flanked on both sides by projecting 3-bay wings. These 1915 sections on the east and west sides of the building were renovated extensively in 1937 when the new central section and additions were constructed, so that their original features are virtually unrecognizable, except for their footprint. All of the building features an Art Deco design that was popular in the 1930s. All three sections have a simple beltcourse that delineates the basement level from the first story, and unornamented coping, a later alteration, marks the top of the roofline of all sections.

The main central block has a central entrance with two bays of windows flanking each side. The main entrance projects slightly from the main façade, with granite curbing and steps (**Photograph 6**). The limestone architrave around the entrance is relatively unornamented, but features the school's later name, "Athol Junior High School/Athol Royalston Regional School District," in a panel above the door. The panel formerly displayed the original name, "Athol High School." The pediment features carved, geometrical floral Art Deco motifs and is framed by egg-and-dart molding. Paired glass and aluminum-frame doors are recessed in the limestone-framed entrance. Simple wood pilasters flank the doors, which have a transom above. Above the central entrance is a tall, narrow window with aluminum sash and wide concrete stepped surround, which extends to the roofline. The surround is ornamented with vertical and horizontal grooving, typical of Art Deco and Art Moderne styles. The central block's roofline is broken by a stepped parapet, with a round medallion that contains a carving of the town seal. The roofline is different from the original 1937 façade; a photograph from 1949 shows that the roof line rose above the flanking wings and was capped with a flat, wide limestone coping with vertical grooves.

The bays on each side of the entrance feature banks of four windows, which are separated by panels of bricks with black and blue hues. The windows are 1/1 aluminum sash, set within a simple limestone surround. Concrete headers with deep horizontal grooves frame the top of the banks of windows. The window openings in the basement level are separated by red-brick panels, and are currently covered with wood panels. A simple stone beltcourse delineates the basement level from the first story, while simple stone or concrete coping, a more recent alteration, marks the roofline.

The projecting east and west wings have identical fenestration on the front facades, similar in arrangement and style to the central block. The windows in the first and second stories are set in two banks of window openings, with three windows separated by a panel of black and blue bricks. Most of the windows are 1/1 double-hung aluminum sash, while a small number have aluminum sash with a 1/2 aluminum hopper opening. The original window sash appear to have been 12/12 wood double-hung sash on the first and second stories, and 8/8 wood double-hung sash on the basement level.

The west wing of the building is on a granite and limestone foundation: the southern portion of the wing, which dates to 1915, is on the granite foundation (**Photograph 5**). The portion of the wing at the rear, constructed in 1937, rests on the limestone foundation. The west elevation of the wing is nearly identical to the front façade, with a central projecting entrance flanked by two bays of windows on either side that are the same arrangement as the front façade, with the exception that the windows are in banks of four rather than three. The entrance is also similar to the front central entrance, although it has more simplistic geometric floral carvings in the pediment, and the name of the school is not carved into the stone. Immediately south of the entrance bay are small, narrow windows in the first and second story. These windows contain 1/1 aluminum sash within a simple limestone surround.

Similar to the west wing, the east wing of the building rests on a 1915 granite and a 1937 limestone foundation (**Photograph 2**). The east side has a central entrance identical to the west elevation of the west wing, and the southern bay has the same window fenestration found in the southern bay of the west wing. In the northern section of the bay is the gymnasium section that was added in 1937. The northern section of the wing is five bays wide, with the centered bays projecting slightly from the building plane. The raised basement level has single windows that have been covered with wood panels. The first story also has windows within a simple limestone surround, which have been covered with wood panels. The large windows in the second story, where the gymnasium is located, contain 30/40 fixed panes, with a centered hopper-style aluminum window. The windows have a limestone lintel. The windows in the projecting bay are separated by a panel of black and blue bricks, and have five aluminum vents immediately below the windows and brick panels.

The rear, or north, elevation of the building contains the additions to the 1915 east and west wings and rear of the central section (**Photographs 3, 4**). In the west side, there are no openings in the basement and first story. The second story contains a bank of three windows, with 1/1 aluminum sash, set within a simple limestone surround. The first and second stories of the central section have two sets of banks of four windows, with 1/1 aluminum sash, set within a simple limestone surround. Unlike the front and side elevations of the building, the rear does not feature the panels of black and blue bricks between the windows. The central section also has a projecting section on the east, with a brick smokestack and 1/1 aluminum-sash windows on the north and west elevation of this projection. The windows in the first and second stories are set within simple limestone surrounds. A limestone beltcourse runs across the elevation of the building between the basement and first-story levels, with the exception of the gymnasium wing, which does not have a beltcourse.

The eastern side of the rear elevation is much larger, as it houses the gymnasium. It has four of the gymnasium windows in the center of the wing, and is blind at the basement and first-story levels. An entrance in the western part of the elevation, on the first story, is accessed by a simple steel staircase. Entrances are also located in the eastern side, on the first and second stories, which are connected by a simple, open steel staircase. A series of one-story flat-roofed additions are in the crook between the gymnasium area and central section.

## **Interior**

The interior plan of the building features lateral central corridors with classrooms on both sides, and stairways at the front central entrance and at the east and west ends of the respective east and west wings. The three-level interior is composed of a basement level, which contains ancillary functions such as laboratories, cafeteria, and locker rooms; a first story level with eight classrooms and two offices, and the second floor, similar in layout to the first floor, although it contains no offices. The gymnasium is in the northeast section of the building and is two stories in height.

The main corridors of each floor have linoleum-clad floors and smooth linoleum wainscoting (**Photograph 11**). The walls are interspersed with metal lockers between the classroom doors. These classroom doors are typically single wood-panel with nine lights and a transom above. More recent doors are wood with a single vertical window. The central stairway has a short run of steps, which leads to both the first floor and basement from the front central entrance. The stairway features

a simple metal railing, with alternating plain and turned metal balusters (**Photograph 10**). The treads are covered with linoleum at the first floor and rubber in the area leading to the basement. A chair lift has been installed in this stairway. The east and west stairways have a wood railing with simple wood balusters; the treads are covered with rubber (**Photograph 19**). An interior doorway separates each stairway from the corridors. These interior doorways have paired wood doors framed by multipane transom and sidelights (**Photograph 12**). Some of the doors are simple wood-frame with full glass panels, while others have a half glass panel in the upper part of the door (**Photograph 20**). Lighting throughout the floors is composed of hanging fluorescent lighting, with some safety lighting in the hallways and basement (**Photographs 8, 16**).

The basement level has lower ceilings than the first and second floors (**Photograph 17**). The first and second ceiling heights appear to be intact; some rooms have decorative tin ceilings, although these are only seen in the 1915 sections (**Photograph 15**). The majority of the rooms have plain plaster ceilings (**Photograph 13**). The rooms all have simple wood trim around the baseboards, windows, and blackboards. Every classroom has built-in shelves or closets that also have the plain wood trim (**Photograph 15**). Some classrooms also retain the original radiators and covers (**Photograph 9**).

Supply rooms for books, with built-in shelves, are located outside the majority of the classrooms. The main feature of the first floor is the gymnasium/auditorium in the northeast corner of the building. This space has a wood parquet floor, tiled walls, and wood bleachers along the west wall. Storage spaces are behind and underneath the bleachers. Along the eastern side of the room is a wood stage, with a proscenium arch framed by molded wood paneling and fluted wood pilasters (**Photograph 14**). Flooring throughout the first floor is a mix of wood flooring and areas that have been covered with linoleum and carpeting (**Photographs 8, 9, 13**).

The second floor is laid out almost identically to the first floor plan, except that the gymnasium is not open to this floor. Skylights illuminate the central corridor, and there is a locker alcove centered in the north side. The second floor also contains the library in the north side, with built-in shelves and raised-panel bookcases (**Photograph 16**). The second floor classrooms also contain separate storage spaces for books, similar to those found on the first floor. Flooring throughout the second floor is a mix of wood flooring, and areas that have been covered with linoleum and carpeting.

The basement level contains spaces for laboratories, a cafeteria (**Photograph 18**), and two locker rooms. The locker rooms have tiled walls and floors, and separate shower spaces. This level is also where service spaces are located, such as the electrical room, boiler room, and janitorial supply rooms.

### Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the school property, sites may be present. Two ancient sites are recorded in the general area (within approximately one mile). A single ancient Native American site (19-WR-398) is reportedly located approximately 1,725 feet (526 meters) northeast of the school, downslope from it, on the north side of the Millers River. The site is recorded as a chipped stone scatter, and according to the site form, neither the artifact types nor site location had been confirmed at the time the form was prepared. The second site—an isolated spot find (19-WR-734)—was reported on a floodplain knoll in the Tully River wetlands approximately 5,350 feet (1,631 meters) west/northwest of the school. The spot find was a gray quartz flake. This site is also located well downslope from the school and north of the Millers River at its confluence with Tully Creek.

Environmental characteristics of the school property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient Native American sites. The school occupies a well-drained, level to moderately sloping, high riverine terrace in close proximity to wetlands. Soils along School Street and immediately surrounding the school are generally sandy and formed on glacial outwash plains and stream terraces. North and downslope of the school to Main Street, land surfaces are steeply sloped and soils are extremely stony. The Millers River is located less than 1,000 feet north of the school. An intermittent drainage lies approximately 863 feet (263 meters) east of the school. The entire town of Athol lies within the Millers River drainage, part of the larger Connecticut River drainage.

In spite of the information presented above, the potential for locating significant ancient Native American resources on the school property is low. Only the level to moderately sloping terraced area north of School Street is sensitive for ancient Native American resources. The steeply sloped and extremely stony area north of the school to Main Street has a low sensitivity for ancient sites. School construction (1852, 1892, 1915, 1937), landscape features (walkways, access roads, retaining walls), and utilities would have destroyed any potential ancient Native American resources that might have been present in the area. The extant school structure, which has a basement, covers nearly the entire terraced area north of School Street. The remaining portion of the terraced area surrounding the school has lost integrity due to installation of the landscape features and utilities described above. Few, if any, ancient sites in the region occupy high riverine terrace landforms similar to the Athol High School location.

The potential for locating significant historic archaeological resources on the school property is also low. Construction of the extant school building, landscaping, landscape features, and utilities would have destroyed any historic archaeological resources that predated school construction in 1915 and 1937. The extant school building is centralized on the buildable portion of the high riverine terrace. Any structural evidence from the 1852 wood-frame school or 1892 structure have been destroyed by school construction. No barns, stables, outbuildings, or occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) have been identified with any of the school buildings. Although some of these structures were likely present, especially with the 1852 school, they too were also likely destroyed by construction of the existing facility.

## 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education,

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1915-1960

### Significant Dates

1915, 1937

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Funk and Wilcox, 1915

J. Williams Beal and Sons, 1937

Leland B. Taylor (builder) 1937

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance of 1915-1960 reflects the earliest date of construction of the building (the 1915 wings) to the National Register cut-off date of 50 years from the date of the nomination.

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Athol High School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and fulfills National Register Criteria A and C with a local level of significance. The site was home to the town's only high school for over 100 years, chronicling the town's response to educational needs and population growth over the course of successive building episodes. As such, the school is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the Town of Athol's efforts in public education. The building is one of nine 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings remaining in the town that represent public education endeavors. In its current configuration, the Athol High School building is the product of two building episodes. The side wings were built in 1915 on either side of an 1892 school building. The 1892 building, in turn, was replaced in 1937 by the present central block. The 1915 wings were also modified in 1937. The school was also expanded during this renovation, with additional classrooms, a gymnasium, and cafeteria added to the north of the building. The building served as Athol's only high school until 1957, when it became the Junior High and Middle School. The current building is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the Public Works Administration in the 1930s, as a part of the New Deal and its community-based stimulus construction projects. The building also meets Criterion C as an excellent example of Art Deco school architecture, with a well-preserved interior and exterior, and for its association with the Boston-based architecture firms of Funk and Wilcox and J. Williams Beal and Sons. The Art Deco design was a common style for educational buildings in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the school stands out as one of only three examples of Art Deco architecture in the town of Athol.

### Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### Public education efforts in Athol

The Massachusetts Constitution established education as a primary goal for towns within the Commonwealth. The 1780 Constitution stated "it shall be the duty of the legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of the Commonwealth, to cherish the interests of...public school and grammar schools in the towns." Athol, a predominantly rural community in early 19<sup>th</sup> century Massachusetts, followed other towns in the state in regards to public education.<sup>1</sup> However, in Athol the first schoolhouses were built in 1766; one on West Hill, and the other at 1850 Pleasant Street. Neither building is still standing. By 1774, the town had six schools and was divided into School Districts or "Squadrons." Two districts were located north of the Millers River, and four districts were south of the river. By 1850, there were thirteen school districts, and therefore 13 separate school buildings. During the 1870s and 1880s, Athol was becoming a more industrial community, thus increasing the population at a rapid rate. The town developed a building program in 1889 that constructed four new public schools within the next five years.<sup>2</sup> These schools included the Main Street School, Highland School, Lake Park School, and the High School. In 1909 the district system was abolished, which resulted in the closure of several of the remaining one-room schoolhouses.

The location of Athol's high school has been at this site since 1856. Parents in Athol had been sending their children to private academies, such as New Salem Academy, the Powers Institute, and Athol Academy, for secondary education since the early 19th century. However, a state law passed in 1827 required that towns with more than 500 households provide a high school for the community; and in 1855, the state census indicated that Athol had a population of 2,395, presumably resulting in more than 500 households.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, a number of discussions and meetings were held to determine the

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Constitution, Chapter V, Section II.

<sup>2</sup> William G. Lord, *History of Athol, Massachusetts*, 1953, pg. 64.

<sup>3</sup> Abstract of the Census of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1855, Francis DeWitt, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston, William White Printer. (1857)

location of the high school. A dispute between the residents of the Upper Village and the Lower Village led to a bitter battle over the location. Finally, at the town meeting in May 1856, a close vote determined the current location of the proposed school in the Upper Village.<sup>4</sup> A two-acre parcel of land was purchased from Rebecca Kendall. The first high school was a small, wood-frame building, designed by the architecture firm of Skinner and Bigelow at a cost of \$2575. This building held two grammar school rooms on the first floor and the high school on the second floor. The schoolhouse served as the high school until 1892, when it was determined that more space was needed for the ever-growing population. The original building was then relocated just down the street to 440 School Street, where it was used for multifamily housing until it was destroyed by fire in 1956.

The brick building constructed in 1892 on this site contained 10 rooms for the students. At the time of its construction, it was thought that "none of the living would see this building obsolete or inadequate for the needs of Athol."<sup>5</sup> Yet in 1915, it was determined that the building was too small for the 200 pupils that were utilizing it. The residents voted to expand the building, and also build the Riverbend Junior High School, located at 174 Riverbend Street two blocks away. The Boston firm of Funk and Wilcox designed the new additions to the high school, and Athol resident Leland B. Taylor was selected as contractor. Two-story east and west wings with basements were added, as well as new boiler and electrical systems. When the building was completed at a cost of \$50,000, it could accommodate 450 students.

The town's need to build the new high school on School Street in 1892 and to expand it in 1915 to accommodate ever more pupils can be attributed to the dynamic growth that Athol was experiencing in these decades. The stage for Athol's growth was set in the 1870s, when the natural water power manufacturing advantages conferred on the town by the Millers River were augmented by the construction of two railroad connections. These railroad connections were the line between Athol and Springfield, which was opened in 1870, and the construction of the Fitchburg Railroad through Athol to the Hoosac Tunnel and the Berkshires in 1879. In subsequent years, several manufacturing concerns established thriving factories in central Athol, including the L.S. Starrett Company/Athol Machine Company, which made quality precision tools; the Union Twist Drill Company, which made twist drills and high-grade gear and milling cutters; and the Lee Brothers Shoe Company/Lee's Shoe Factory. Other large manufacturing businesses included Raymond's Sash and Blind Factory, which was located at a distance southeast of central Athol, on Water Street/Lake Ellis Road.

Overall, the development of transportation infrastructure, manufacturing plants, and commercial businesses made Athol an economic center for this region of Massachusetts at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The industrial activities attracted new business investment and provided jobs for workers who moved to the area, increasing the town's population and thereby creating a need for expanded school facilities. The Town's decision to locate the 1892 high school building on the site of the earlier school, a site that the town already owned, may have also been influenced by the relatively central geographic location of the site within the town's boundaries. Its central location would be the most convenient one for all of Athol's high school students. Another factor may have been the emergence of the School Street neighborhood as a desirable and growing residential quarter for Athol. This neighborhood was well-positioned in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century for residential development, due to its location on the south side of the Miller River, at a slight distance from the established commercial center along Main Street on the north side of the river. The location was convenient to both Main Street and the Athol railroad depot, and successful managers and business owners were building large residences on School Street by at least the early 1890s. These houses included the one at 166 School Street (extant) owned by George W. Bishop, Roadmaster for the Fitchburg Railroad, and another at 503 School Street (extant) that was the home of lumber dealer Willard Newton.<sup>6</sup> The establishment of a street railway along School Street in 1894 would have made the neighborhood accessible for further development as a streetcar suburb within the town, which appears to be borne out by the somewhat more modest houses that are located in the blocks south of Allen Street. Good transportation links to downtown businesses and workplaces, along with the documented growth of Athol's industries in the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, likely led

<sup>4</sup> William G. Lord, *History of Athol, Massachusetts*, 1953, pg. 66. After consultation with the Athol Public Library Reference librarian and local resident/historian, the boundaries of "Upper Village" and "Lower Village" could not be determined. They are presumed to correspond to the hilltop location and upper environs of the area surrounding the high school site (Upper Village), and the lower-level neighborhoods to the west and to the north (Lower Village).

<sup>5</sup> Abstract of the Census of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1855, Francis DeWitt, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston, William White Printer. (1857)

<sup>6</sup> Robert Tuholski, *Images of America: Athol Massachusetts*, 1999, pg. 79

to the development of additional residences in this neighborhood and throughout town, resulting in the need for the construction of the school's wings in 1915 to accommodate a larger school population.

#### Funk and Wilcox and Leland B. Taylor

George Funk and William Wilcox, the architects of the 1915 wings, designed a number of public buildings around the turn of the century. The majority of these buildings were in Boston and the surrounding area, and included a number of fire stations and theaters. Of particular note are the Somerville Theatre (NRMRA) (1914) in Somerville, the Strand Theatre (1918) in Boston, and the Ware Theatre (1920) in Beverly. The firm also designed buildings in Athol, including the Athol Second Unitarian Church and the Commercial House-Leonard Hotel. The Athol High School is the only high school building known to have been designed by the firm, although they were responsible for the Sarah Greenwood Elementary School in Boston. Leland B. Taylor was an Athol resident who constructed several buildings in the area, including the Memorial Building and the Starrett Block, and worked with Funk and Wilcox on the Commercial House-Leonard Hotel.

#### Public Works Administration Program

By the 1930s, the town continued to grow and educational goals had changed, resulting in the need for expansion and improvements. In addition, the physical facilities provided by the 1892 high school building were then 40 years old and likely considered obsolete in terms of spatial planning and general condition. The school board sought to improve such departments as business, home economics, and the physical education program.<sup>7</sup> The availability of funding assistance from the Federal Government would have increased the feasibility of the town improving its school buildings during the economic hard times of the Great Depression, when on October 28, 1936, the School Committee received notice that the Federal Public Works Administration (PWA) offered to contribute up to \$212,850 toward the construction of a Junior-Senior High School. A town meeting held days later discussed the needs for better classrooms, laboratory, auditorium, and gymnasium facilities in the high school. At a meeting at the end of November, the town determined that it would need to raise about \$300,000, of which 45% would be provided by the Federal grant. The balance was to be raised by the Town Treasury on a 20-year bond. At this same November meeting, the town voted to use the PWA grant in order to add to the existing High School and Riverbend Junior High School, rather than construct an entirely new building.

The PWA program was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal reforms during the Great Depression. Created in 1933, the program provided several billion dollars for new construction of public facilities such as airports, housing developments, hospitals, and schools. Through these construction projects, the PWA was seen as an attempt to revive the American economy by providing employment and improving the morale of the American public during the Great Depression. Between July 1933 and March 1939, the PWA program funded over 34,000 projects, including 70% of the schools and one-third of the hospitals constructed during this period.<sup>8</sup> Unfortunately, while the program supplied over \$6 billion in six years, the construction work did not significantly improve the economic condition in America, or reduce the unemployment rate.<sup>9</sup> However, it did provide the government with an opportunity to distribute funds at the local level to make the attempt to improve local economies, and provided the nation with many public buildings that still exist today.

The PWA is similar to the WPA (Works Progress Administration), as both funded the construction of public buildings, bridges, and railroads. However, the WPA also employed artists, actors, and writers as part of the Federal Theater Project, Federal Art Project, and Federal Writers Project. Additionally, WPA projects used welfare labor for relief purposes. In contrast, PWA work was completed by contractors who hired their own help and paid union wages,<sup>10</sup> or where wage rates were not officially set by law, the project owner was required to confer with labor advisors in regional PWA offices and

<sup>7</sup> Annual Report of the Town of Athol, *Report of the School Committee*, December 31, 1937.

<sup>8</sup> The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers. "Public Works Administration." *Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt*, ed. by Allida Black, June Hopkins, et. al. (Hyde Park, New York: Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, 2003). <http://www.nps.gov/archive/elro/glossary/pwa.htm> [Accessed February 17, 2009].

<sup>9</sup> The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers. "Public Works Administration." *Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt*, ed. by Allida Black, June Hopkins, et. al. (Hyde Park, New York: Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, 2003). <http://www.nps.gov/archive/elro/glossary/pwa.htm> [Accessed February 17, 2009].

<sup>10</sup> Walker C. Brown, *The Transcript*, July 31, 1935.

establish minimum wage rates that took collective agreements into consideration, as well as wage rates actually paid in the vicinity for similar work.<sup>11</sup> Athol had a number of WPA projects in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Some of these included sidewalk repairs, the installation of a septic system at the town infirmary, bookbinding, sewing, repairs to the schools, improvements to the cemeteries, and beautification projects. A WPA project in 1938 included adding a retaining wall behind the new high school. Heavy rains had left the steep slope to the rear of the school susceptible to a landslide. The Athol Planning Board and WPA Projects Committee allotted \$18,000 for labor and \$1462.50 for materials, and would employ 50 men for at least four months. The retaining wall was constructed of concrete ties and encircled 50 feet of the slope at the rear of the school. A similar wall was constructed halfway up the hill as well. Small shrubs and trees were also planted into the slope to prevent future erosion.<sup>12</sup>

#### J. Williams Beal and Sons

Shortly after the 1937 town meetings, J. Williams Beal and Sons of Boston were selected as the project architects. The firm also designed, among other buildings, the Boston University (Huntington) Theatre in Boston, a residential area known as Harriswood Crescent (NR) (1890)<sup>13</sup> and other houses in the Roxbury section of Boston, an apartment house in the Allston-Brighton area, and Eliot Congregational Church in Roxbury (NR) (1873)<sup>14</sup>. The firm was also responsible for a number of municipal buildings, including the Dyer Memorial Library in Abington (1932), the Walpole Town Hall (NR) (1881),<sup>15</sup> and the U.S. Post Office in Rockland (1932). Additionally, the firm is credited with a number of school buildings such as the King Street Grammar School in Hanover (1889), the Calvin Coolidge High School in Melrose (NR) (1898), and the Northampton Public High School (1939).

During the construction, high school students had to attend classes at the Riverbend Junior High School, two blocks away at 174 Riverbend Street. In 1937, just before the high school reopened, the Town of Athol switched over to the 6-3-3 plan on a twelve-grade program. Under this plan, grades one through six were in the elementary schools, grades seven, eight, and nine in the junior high school, and grades ten, eleven, and twelve were in the senior high school. Many cities and towns in Massachusetts, as well as across the country, were adopting this plan at the time. With the construction of the new high school and adoption of a new educational plan, Athol was clearly concerned about the education of its younger citizens.

The new building was composed of the 1915 wings that had been added to the 1892 school building, and a new central section, rear wings, and gymnasium. The remodeling/construction project created function-specific spaces, including laboratories for chemistry, physics, and biology, a sewing room, a cafeteria that could hold up to 200 students, an auditorium/gymnasium with locker rooms and showers, and a library and study hall. The building was designed in the Art Deco style, popular in the 1930s for institutional and commercial buildings, but a rare example of the style in Athol. The 1915 wings were altered to adapt to the more modern architectural style, and the footprint of the school changed, as the new gymnasium added a significant amount of square footage to the eastern side of the building, behind the original east wing.

By 1955, Athol's population had reached its peak of 12,186 residents, due largely to its continued industrial growth. In 1956, the town of Athol joined with the neighboring town of Royalston to form the Athol-Royalston School District, due to the latter's smaller school-age population. With this consolidation and a consequent increase in students, the town constructed a new high school at 2363 Main Street in Athol at the same time. The original high school was then leased by Athol to the School District for use as a Junior High School. It remained the Junior High and Middle School until 2003, when the building was vacated.

At present, the building is being converted to senior housing using Federal and State historic tax credits, and its rehabilitation will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The rehabilitation will convert the

<sup>11</sup> *Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration 1933-39 Vol. I*, page x.

<sup>12</sup> Athol Daily News, July 28, 1938.

<sup>13</sup> Harriswood Crescent National Register Nomination, 1986.

<sup>14</sup> Eliot Congregational Church National Register Nomination 1994.

<sup>15</sup> Walpole Town Hall National Register Nomination 1981.

numerous classrooms to individual apartment units, but will retain the wide corridors and the center and side stairways. The gymnasium/auditorium section will be divided into two separate floors in order to reuse this space for additional apartments. Necessary code and accessibility upgrades will be incorporated into the building and its site, but these upgrades have been designed to be as sensitive as possible to the important character-defining elements of the building and its site.

### History of Athol's School Building Efforts

The earliest school buildings constructed in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> through early 19<sup>th</sup> century were usually one-room buildings and likely very primitive. The town voted in 1763 to raise approximately 13 pounds to provide its first school.<sup>16</sup> Ambitious school building construction did not begin until the mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> century. Of note are twelve public school buildings, including the High School, which were recorded on Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory forms by the Athol Historical Commission in the late 1970s. Those school buildings that were inventoried were constructed between 1827 and 1928.

One-room schoolhouses typified the school building type in Athol in the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest inventoried schoolhouse in Athol, the Athol Center District Schoolhouse #1 (MHC # ATH.20), was constructed in 1827 on Morse Place. There are reports of a schoolhouse in South Athol constructed in the 1830s, but this building was destroyed by fire in 1916.<sup>17</sup> The Chestnut Hill Schoolhouse (MHC # ATH.11), located at 925 Chestnut Hill Avenue, was built in 1850 and was used as a schoolhouse until 1905, roughly around the time the school district system was abolished. This school building does not appear to be extant. The Old Pleasant Street School (MHC # ATH.23) was constructed in 1857 on what is now the Route 2 bypass. The New Sherborn Schoolhouse (MHC # ATH.22) was constructed ca. 1869. In the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century, with an expanding population and changing views towards education, the one-room schoolhouse became less common.

Larger school buildings became a necessity in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a direct result of the increasing student population. In 1873 the 2½-story Athol Poor Farm Schoolhouse (MHC # ATH.9) was constructed at 1125 Templeton Road. Its name derived from its location at the rear of the Welfare House. In 1887, the town voted to buy land from Amos L. Cheney and build the Hapgood School (MHC # ATH.46) at 415 Hapgood Street. The parcel was originally a burial ground. The Highland School (MHC #ATH. 32) was constructed ca. 1880 on Main Street, above Uptown Common. The building was designed in the Greek Revival style, apparently the only school building in Athol designed in this manner.

A building program, developed in 1889, constructed four new public schools within the next five years. What followed was a series of larger two- and three-story brick school buildings, typically with square or rectangular plans. These schools included the Main Street School, Highland School, Lake Park School, and the High School. The first of these was the Main Street Grade School (MHC # ATH.78), constructed in 1889 at the intersection of Canal and Main Streets. The schoolhouse served the lower downtown part of Athol until 1967, when the Pleasant Street Elementary School opened. Constructed in 1890, the Highland Grade School (MHC # MHC.77) was located on Auburn Place, but was demolished in 1981. The building served the Athol Center area as a grade school until 1967, when the more modern Pleasant Street Elementary School opened. The Lake Park School was constructed in 1894; the site of the building is now a children's playground.

Another wave of construction commenced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. During this time, the Riverbend Junior High School, Ellen Bigelow School, Sanders and Silver Lake Schools, and the Lyman Ward Grade School were constructed. The Riverbend Junior High School was constructed in 1915, and the Bigelow School was likely constructed around the same time. Both of these buildings were designed in the Colonial Revival style. They have similar symmetrical facades, brick construction, and stone trim. The Riverbend Junior High School features 3-bay wings that bear a striking resemblance to the 1915 wings on the Athol High School. The Sanders Street and Silver Lake Schools (MHC # ATH.49) were both constructed in 1919, and each had additions in 1922. A short time later, the Lyman Ward Grade School (MHC # ATH.79) was constructed in 1928 on Main Street.

<sup>16</sup> Lilley B. Caswell, *Athol Massachusetts, Past and Present*, 1899, pg. 123-124.

<sup>17</sup> Lord, 84-85.

More modern construction took place in the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century, with the High School constructed in 1957 and the Junior High School constructed in 1967. Both buildings are located on Pleasant Street, and still serve Athol as the High School and Junior High School today.

#### Status of Extant Athol School Buildings

Of the inventoried school buildings, an estimated nine are still standing. Most of these have had major alterations, and only three are still utilized as school buildings. Many of the inventoried former school buildings have been converted into apartments or single-family residences, while the Main Street School has been converted into office space.

The Athol Center District Schoolhouse #1 (1827) was later converted into the S.L. Morse Manufacturing and Curry Shop, and is now a single-family residence. The Old Pleasant Street School (1857) was moved to its current location at 599 New Sherborn Road in 1955 and converted to residences. The New Sherborn Schoolhouse (1869) was converted to residences in 1909, when the School District system was abolished. The Athol Poor Farm Schoolhouse (1873) was moved and altered to become a carriage barn and shop for the Welfare House.<sup>18</sup> The Highland School (1880) and the Hapgood School (1887) were converted into apartments in 1940 and 1973, respectively. The Main Street School (1889) appears to be the only school building converted into offices; it was used as the Human Services Center and is now the Environmental Center.<sup>19</sup> Despite efforts to use the abandoned Lyman Ward School as a police headquarters in 2003, it appears the building is currently vacant.<sup>20</sup>

Only the Riverbend Junior High School (1915), the Bigelow School (ca. 1915), and the Sanders Street School (1919) are still used as school buildings. The Riverbend Junior High School was the first and only Junior High School in Athol until 1957, when the new High School was constructed and the old High School was converted in the Athol-Royalston Junior High School. At this time the Riverbend School became a grammar school. The Riverbend and Sanders Street schools are both still serving as elementary schools, while the Bigelow School serves as the town's alternative school.

#### Architectural Context

The Art Deco style was popular during the late 1920s and the 1930s, and emphasized geometric patterns that were either angular or curvilinear. The style stressed hard-edged, strong geometric patterns, enhanced by strong, bold colors and forms. The elements of this style are seen in the contrast of warm red and black and blue bricks, and in the deep vertical and horizontal grooves that adorn the window and door surrounds. Animal and plant forms in a highly stylized design are also typical of the style, and are displayed on the building's entrances. While many WPA project buildings were completed in this style, it appears that the high school is a rare example of the Art Deco style in Athol.

Only two other known Art Deco buildings are found in Athol: the Garbose Building and the Yorke Theatre. The Garbose Building at 407-413 Main Street was constructed in 1926 and was designed by Carroll Saint Hilaire and Albert J. Smith. The building was originally used as a store, dentist office, and photography studio. The Yorke Theatre was constructed in 1930 and was also designed by Albert J. Smith. The building, located at 461-467 Main Street, served as a dance hall, bowling alley, restaurant, and theater. Unlike the Athol High School, both buildings are constructed primarily of concrete block, rather than brick. The Yorke Theatre is two stories, with storefront windows on the first story, and bands of horizontal windows on the second story. The façade has carved Art Deco motifs, such as geometrical floral shapes, and carved vertical grooves along each window and entry opening. Both of these elements are similar to those Art Deco features found on the Athol High School. Similarly, the Garbose Building is also two stories in height, with a concrete block façade and blonde-brick side elevation. It has modern storefront windows on the first story and wood-framed

<sup>18</sup> Robert Tuholski, *Images of America: Athol, Massachusetts*, 1999, pg. 29.

<sup>19</sup> Massachusetts Department of Recreation and Conservation: *Athol Reconnaissance Report*, Spring 2008. <http://athol-ma.gov/docs/AtholHLIReport.pdf>. (Accessed 19 February 2009.)

<sup>20</sup> *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*: "End of Station Break: 55-year wait closes for new Athol HQ." 7, March 2007. <http://www.articlearchives.com/crime-law-enforcement-corrections/law-police-forces/1620658-1.html>. (Accessed 19 February 2009.)

windows on the second story. The façade also has carved Art Deco elements, but its metal cornice and dentils differ from the simple cast-stone cornice that was originally on the Athol High School building.

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- "WPA Seeks Writer From Each Town," November 4, 1935.
- "WPA Approves 12 Projects in Athol," November 15, 1935.
- "Complete Transfer of Athol Projects from ERA to WPA," December 3, 1935.
- "Athol FHA Office is Ordered Closed," December 6, 1935.
- "Barker Reveals Estimate Today as River Project is Started at Athol Under WPA," May 16, 1936.
- "Await Approval of WPA River Project," July 17, 1936.
- "Athol Industry, WPA, Prepare for Flood," August 6, 1936.
- "One of Athol's Beauty Spots," November 7, 1936.
- "Need for Work Produces New Athol Beauty Spots," November 10, 1936.
- "WPA Spends \$161,518 in Nine Months at Athol," November 17, 1936.
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- "Playground Work Starts," July 15, 1938.
- "Seek Wall at High School," July 21, 1938.
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- "Walls to be Built Back of Athol H.S.," July 28, 1938.
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Athol High School  
Name of Property

Worcester, MA  
County and State

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers. "Public Works Administration." *Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt*, ed. by Allida Black, June Hopkins, et. al. (Hyde Park, New York: Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, 2003).  
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**Previous documentation on file (NPS): HPCA #21, 983**

☒ 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☒ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: Athol Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ATH.82

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.10

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

Athol Massachusetts USGS quad, 1988 (7.5 X 15 minute)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |           |               |                |   |                   |                   |                   |
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|   | Zone      | Easting       | Northing       |   | Zone              | Easting           | Northing          |

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| 2 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | 4 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting           | Northing          |   | Zone              | Easting           | Northing          |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel on which the Athol High School stands. See attached assessor's map 31, lot 161.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is drawn to include the entire lot historically associated with the Athol High School.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Jenna Higgins/Preservation Planner, Walter Maros/Preservation Planner, and Rita Walsh/Senior Preservation Planner, VHB, with  
Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 2010

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

e-mail rwalsh@vhb.com

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**Additional Documentation**

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**Photographs:**

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Photographic Information for the Athol High School National Register Nomination, Athol, Massachusetts

Photographer: Jenna Higgins  
Date of Photographs: March, 2008

(Note: These photographs were taken with a 6.2 megapixel digital camera at high resolution and printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper using HP gray photo pigmented inks per the National Park Service March 2008 Photo Policy Expansion list of Acceptable Ink and Paper Combinations for Digital Images).

Index to Photographs:

Photograph 001: View of south facade, facing northwest.  
Photograph 002: View of east wing, and partial view of south facade, facing west.  
Photograph 003: View of east wing, north elevation, facing west.  
Photograph 004: View of north elevation, facing south.  
Photograph 005: View of west elevation, facing northeast.  
Photograph 006: View of south (central main) entrance, facing north.  
Photograph 007: View of south facade from High Street, facing north.  
Photograph 008: View of northwest classroom on first floor, facing northwest.  
Photograph 009: View of paneled partition in classroom on north side, first floor, facing northwest.  
Photograph 010: View of central entrance on south facade from half-landing of central stairway on first floor, facing south.  
Photograph 011: View of main corridor of first floor from central stairway, facing east.  
Photograph 012: View of interior doors at east wing stairway on first floor, facing east.  
Photograph 013: View of classroom in southeast corner of first floor, facing southeast.  
Photograph 014: View of gymnasium and stage on first floor, facing southwest.  
Photograph 015: View of classroom in southwest corner of second floor, facing northeast.  
Photograph 016: View of library on second floor, facing southeast.  
Photograph 017: View of center classroom on south side, basement level, facing northwest.  
Photograph 018: View of cafeteria on basement level, facing southwest.  
Photograph 019: View up of east stairway from basement level landing, facing east.  
Photograph 020: View of east stairway entry doors to main corridor on basement level, facing east.

Athol High School  
Name of Property

Worcester, MA  
County and State

**Index to Figures**

- Figure 1. Site Plan
- Figure 2. First Floor Plan
- Figure 3. Second Floor Plan
- Figure 4. Ground Floor Plan
- Figure 5. Athol High School, 1930 Classbook
- Figure 6. Athol High School, 1937 Classbook
- Figure 7. Athol High School, 1949 Classbook
- Figure 8. Athol High School Entrance, 1938 Classbook
- Figure 9. Athol High School Assembly Hall, A.H.S. Review 1917
- Figure 10. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 6, March 1905
- Figure 11. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 7, October 1911
- Figure 12. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 8, July 1917
- Figure 13. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 9, April 1925
- Figure 14. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 9, April 1925-June 1936
- Figure 15. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 9, April 1925-September 1949

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

---

|                 |                                              |           |                   |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| name            | Richard Hayden, Stratford Capital Group, LLC |           |                   |
| street & number | 100 Corporate Place, Suite 404               | telephone | 978-535-5600 x14  |
| city or town    | Peabody                                      | state     | MA zip code 01960 |

---

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## Massachusetts Historical Commission Digital Image Submission Form

*Please submit one form for each group of digital images*

### About your digital files:

Camera Used (make, model): Nikon D80

Resolution of original image capture (camera setting including resolution and file format):

3872 x 2592

File name(s) (attach additional sheets if necessary) check here ☐ to refer to attached photo log:

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 001

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 011

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 002

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 012

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 003

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 013

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 004

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 014

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 005

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 015

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 006

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 016

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 007

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 017

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 008

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 018

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 009

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 019

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 010

MA WorcesterCounty AtholHighSchool 020

### About your prints:

Printer make and model: HP Photosmart 8050

Paper: brand & type (i.e., Epson Premium Glossy Photo)

Hewlett Packard Premium Plus Photo Paper

Ink: Hewlett Packard Vivera 95 and 100

**Signature:** (By signing below you agree that the information provided here is true and accurate.)

Signature: Atta Wallace

Date: 6-29-09

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 1

Worcester County, MA

Historic Photographs

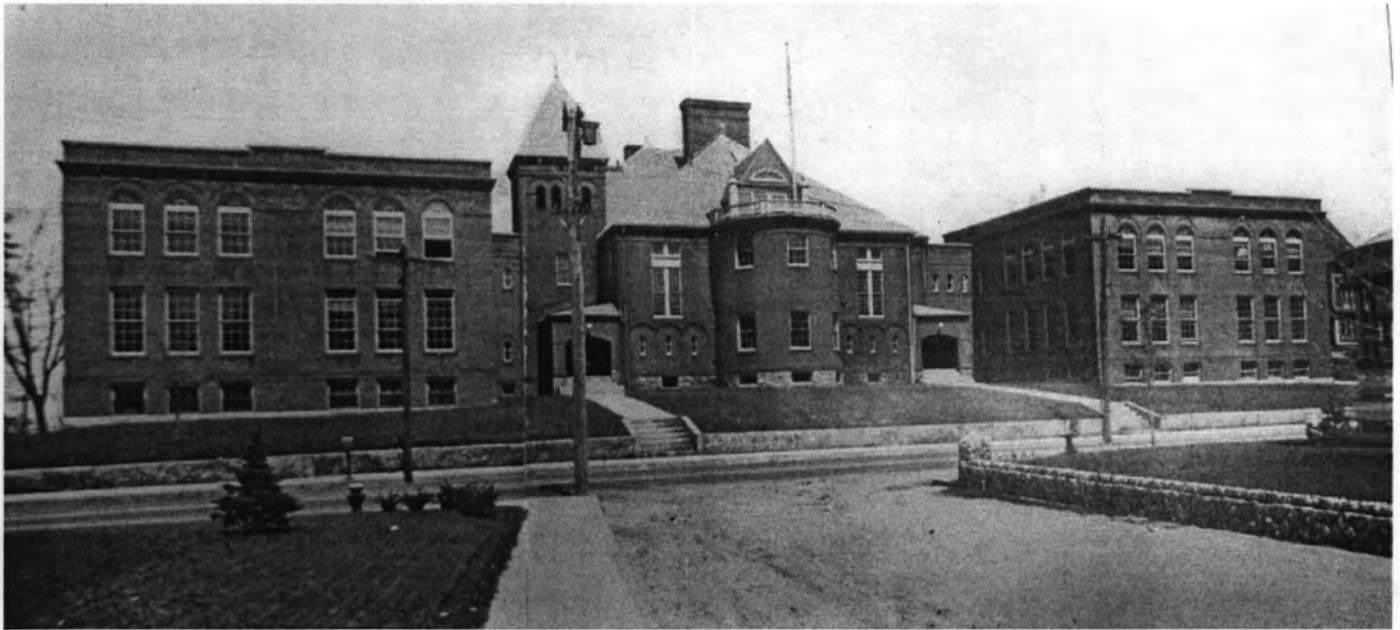


Figure 5. Athol High School, 1930 Classbook

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 2

Worcester County, MA



Figure 6. Athol High School, 1937 Classbook

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 3

Worcester County, MA



Figure 7. Athol High School, 1949 Classbook

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: **Additional Documentation** page: **4**

Worcester County, MA



Figure 8. Athol High School Entrance, 1938 Classbook

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: **Additional Documentation** page: **5**

Worcester County, MA



Figure 9. Athol High School Assembly Hall, A.H.S. Review 1917

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: **Additional Documentation** page: **6**

Worcester County, MA

Historic Maps

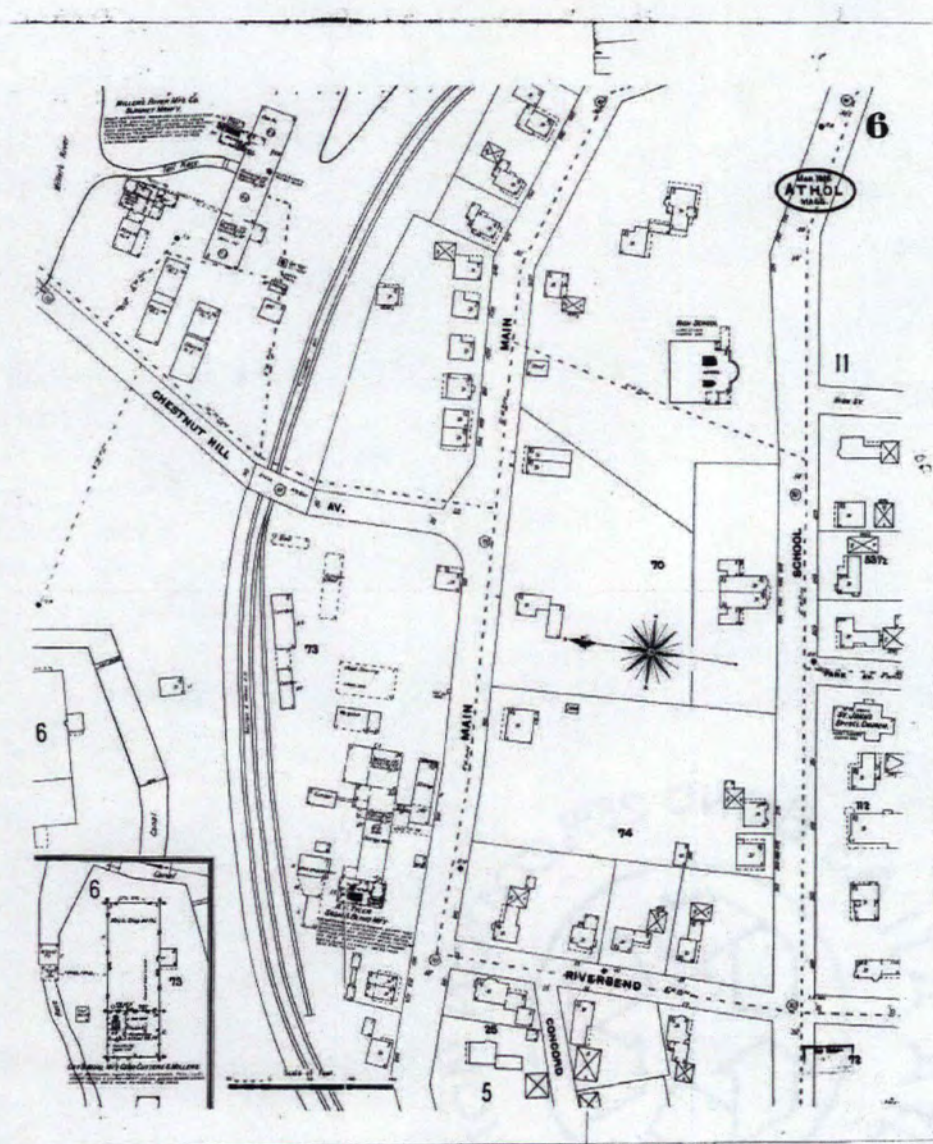


Figure 10. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 6, March 1905

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 7

Worcester County, MA

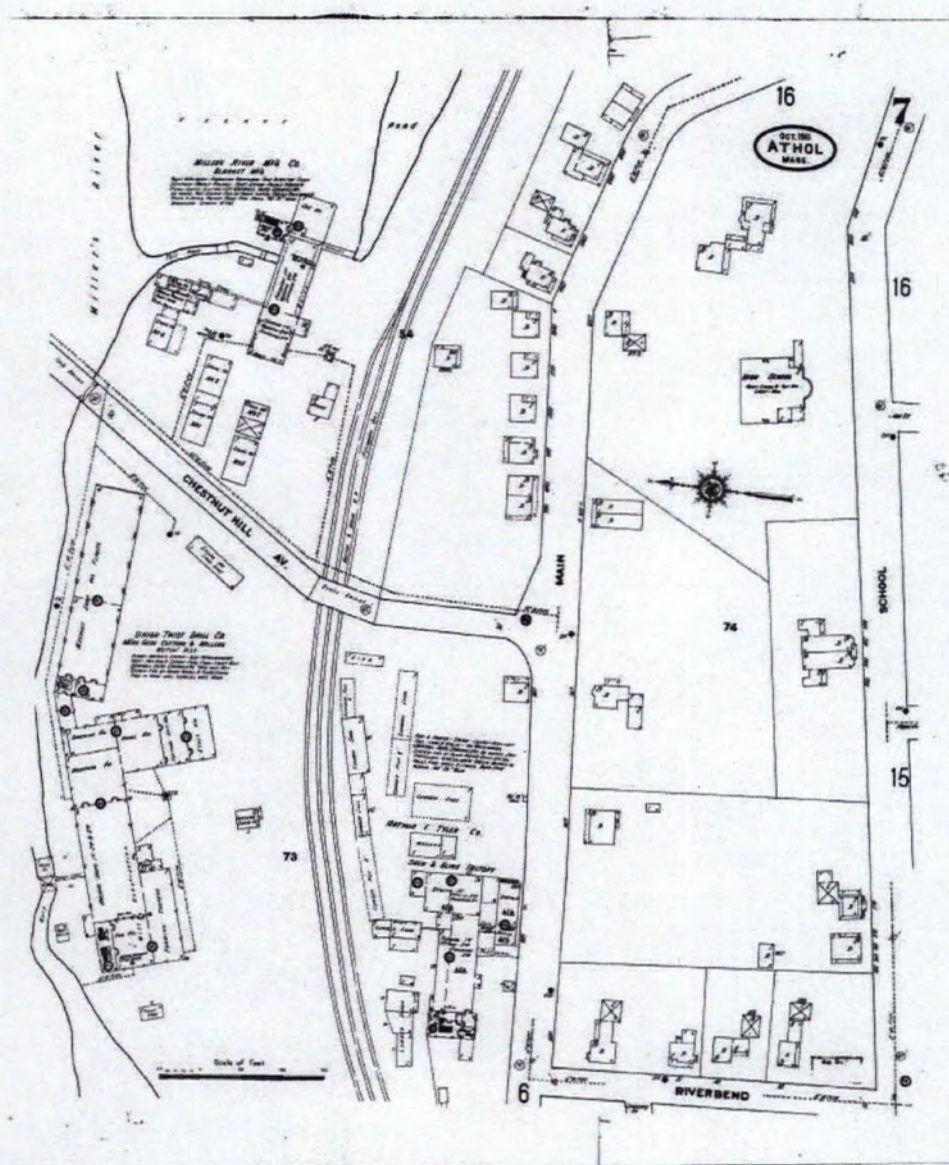


Figure 11. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 7, October 1911

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 8

Worcester County, MA

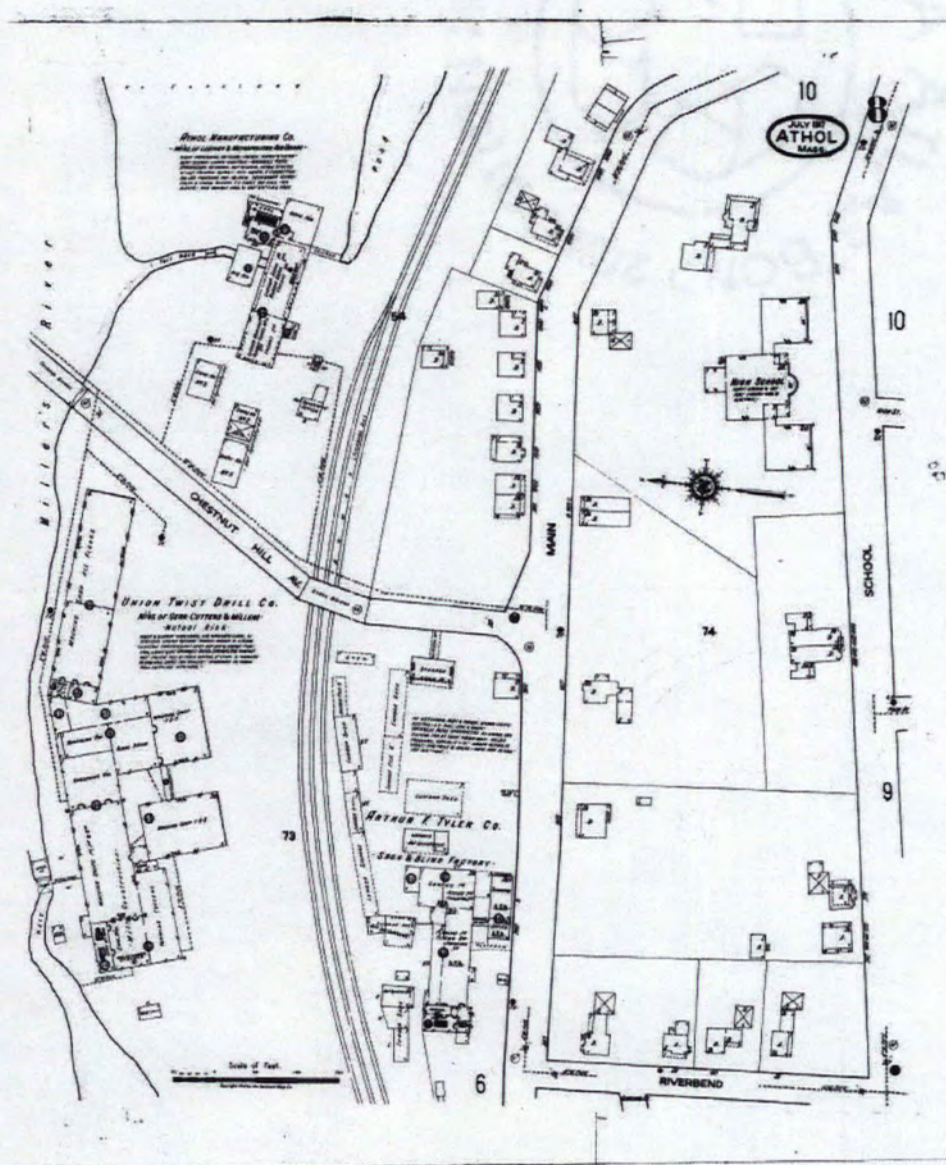


Figure 12. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 8, July 1917

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: **Additional Documentation** page: **9**

Worcester County, MA

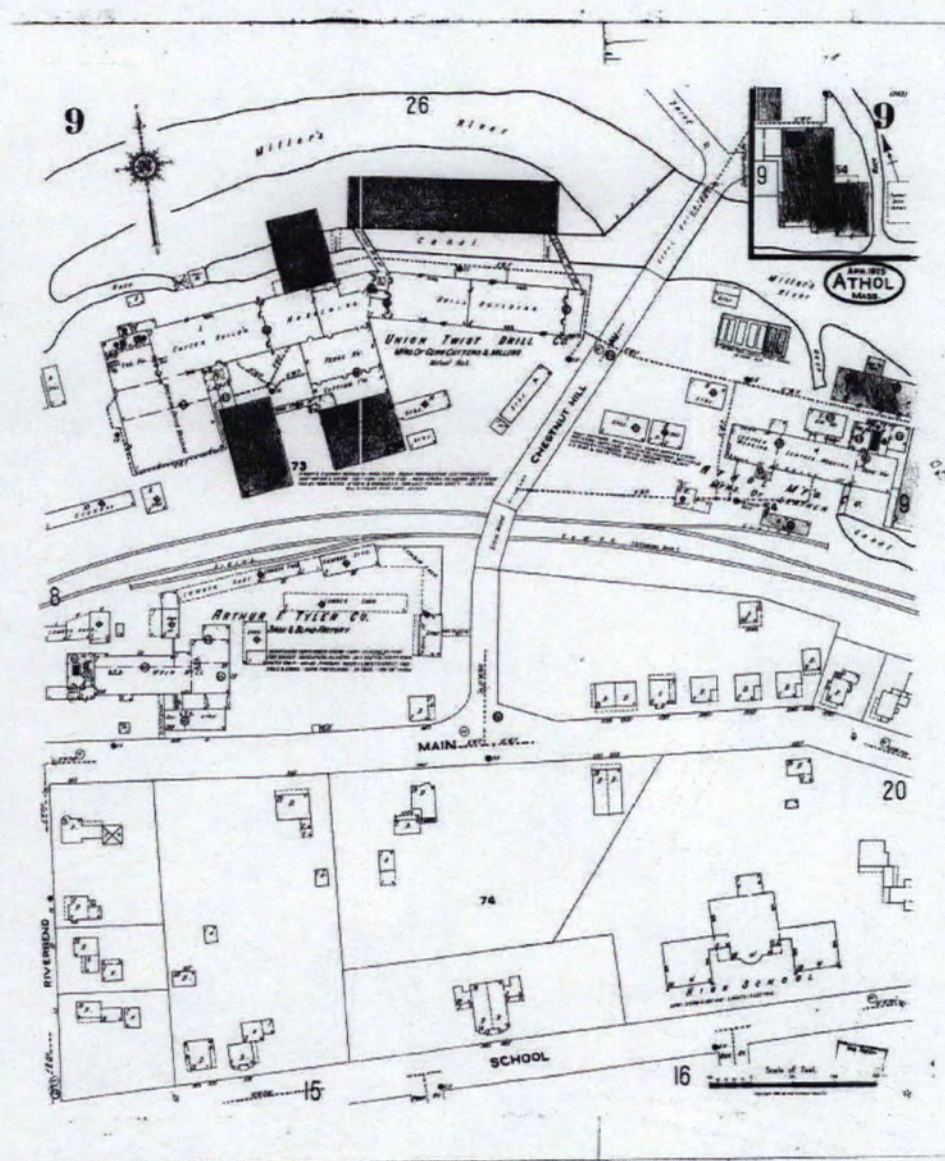


Figure 13. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 9, April 1925

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: **Additional Documentation** page: **10**

Worcester County, MA

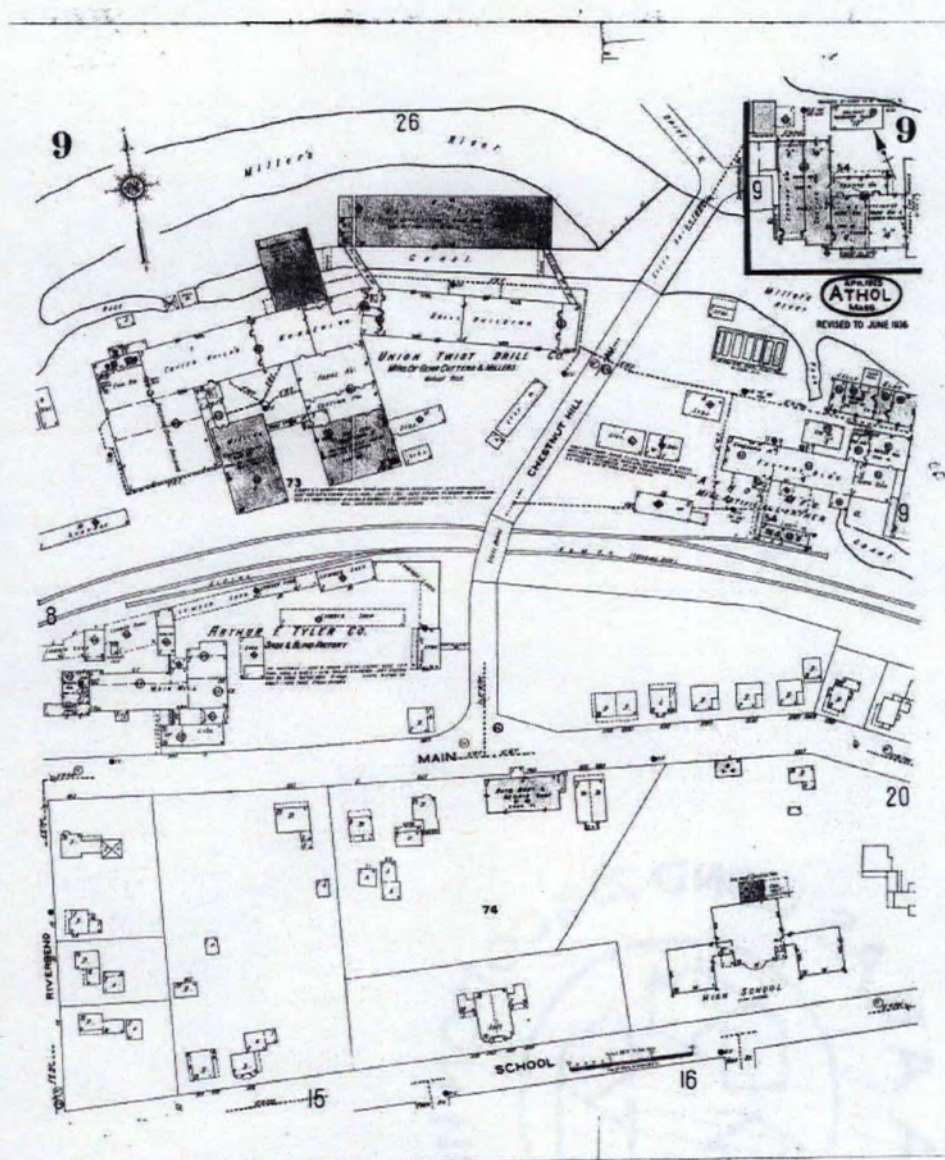


Figure 14. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 9, April 1925-June 1936

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

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Athol High School

Section number: Additional Documentation      page: 11

Worcester County, MA

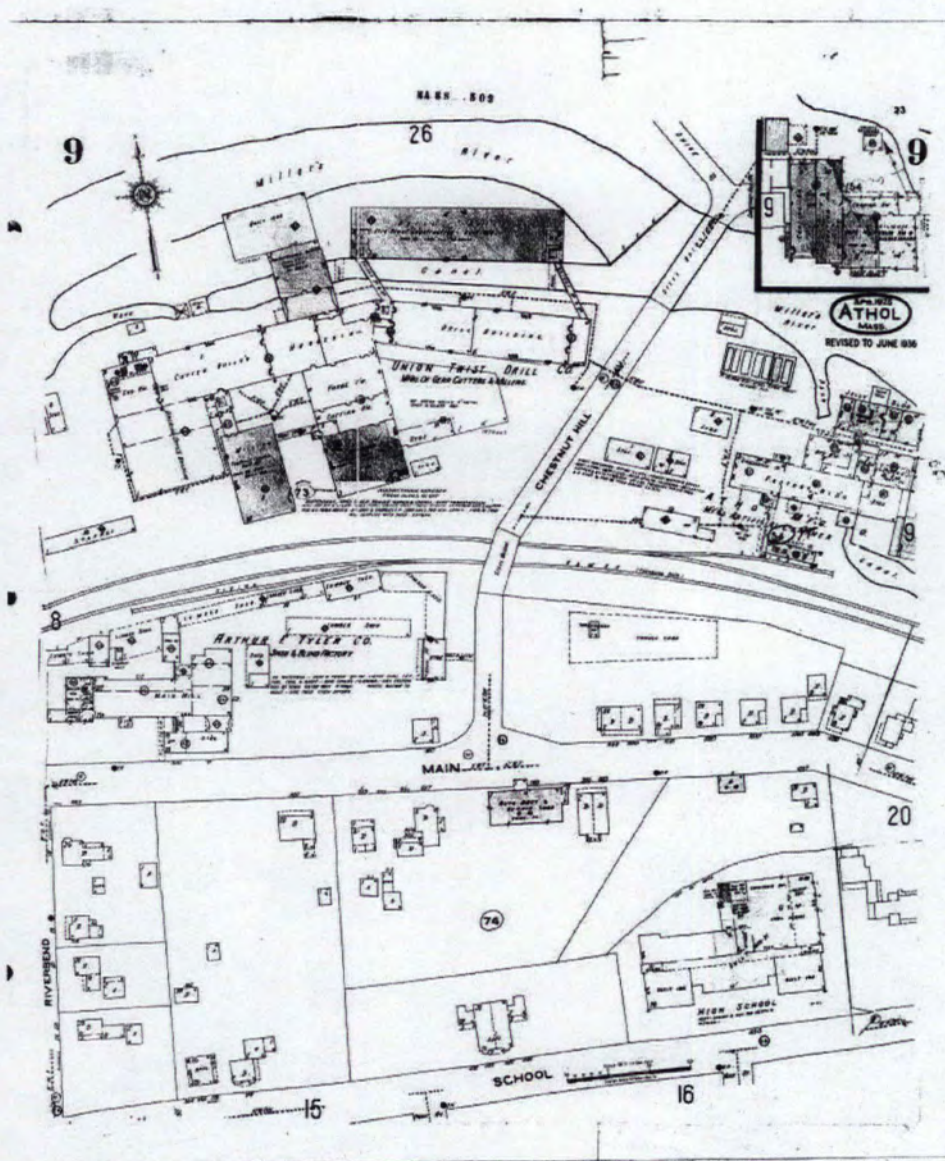


Figure 15. Sanborn Map of Athol, Sheet 9, April 1925-September 1949

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Athol High School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 1/03/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/14/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/01/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/18/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000022

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2-18-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 1

JENNA HIGGINS photo VHB

MAR 2008

VIEW of S FACADE, FACING NW

MA - ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL 01.tif



Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 2

JENNA HIGGINS photo, VHB  
MAR 2008

VIEW of E WING, PARTIAL VIEW, S FACADE  
FACING W

MA - ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 02. tif



JENNA HIGGINS photo MAR 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 3

VIEW of E WING, N. ELEV. facing W

MA - ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 03. tif



JENNA HIGGINIS, VHB photo March 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 4

VIEW of N ELEV. facing S

MA - ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 04. f.f



Athol High School

JENNA HIGGINIS photo VHB

MAR 2008

Athol, MA

View of W ELEV. facing NE

photo 5

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL05.tif



ATHOL JUNIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHOL NOVINGTON  
REGIONAL CHOICE DISTRICT



JENNA HIGGINS photo VHB

Athol High School

MAR 2008

Athol, MA

photo 6

View of South (CENTRAL) ENTRANCE  
facing N

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL06.tif



Athol High School

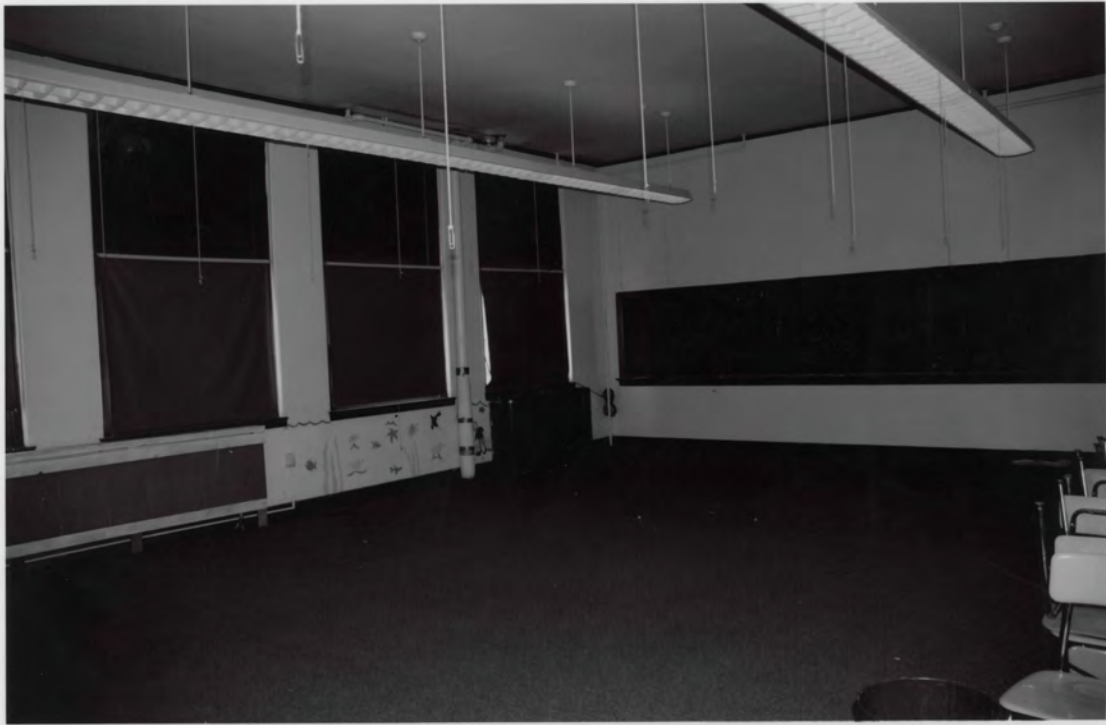
Athol, MA

photo 7

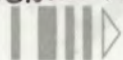
JENNA HIGGINIS, VHB photo  
MAR 2008

View of S FACADE from MAIN ST.  
facing N

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL07. k/f



JENNA HIGGINS PHOTO VHB



MAR 2008



Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 8

INTERIOR: 1st FLOOR, NW CLASSROOM  
FACING NW

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL08.tif





|||||▶ JENNA HIGGINS, VHB photo Mar 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 9

INTERIOR: 1st FLOOR CLASSROOM, N SIDE  
PANELED PARTITION

MA-ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY)-HIGH SCHOOL 09.tif

Activities

A.M.S.



|||||▶ JENNA HIGGINS PHOTO  
VHB

MAR 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 10

INTERIOR: CENTRAL ENTRANCE,  
S FACADE from CENTRAL STAIRWAY  
FACING S

MA - ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 10. f1f



VHB - JENNA HIGGINS photo Mar 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 11

INTERIOR: 1ST FLOOR, MAIN CORRIDOR

FACING E

MA-ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 11. tif

EXIT

RIGHT



JENNA HIGGINS, VHB photo Mar 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 12

INTERIOR: 1st FLOOR

INTERIOR DOORS at E WING STAIRWAY

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL12.tif





JENNA HIGGINS PHOTO VHB

MAR 2008

Athol High School

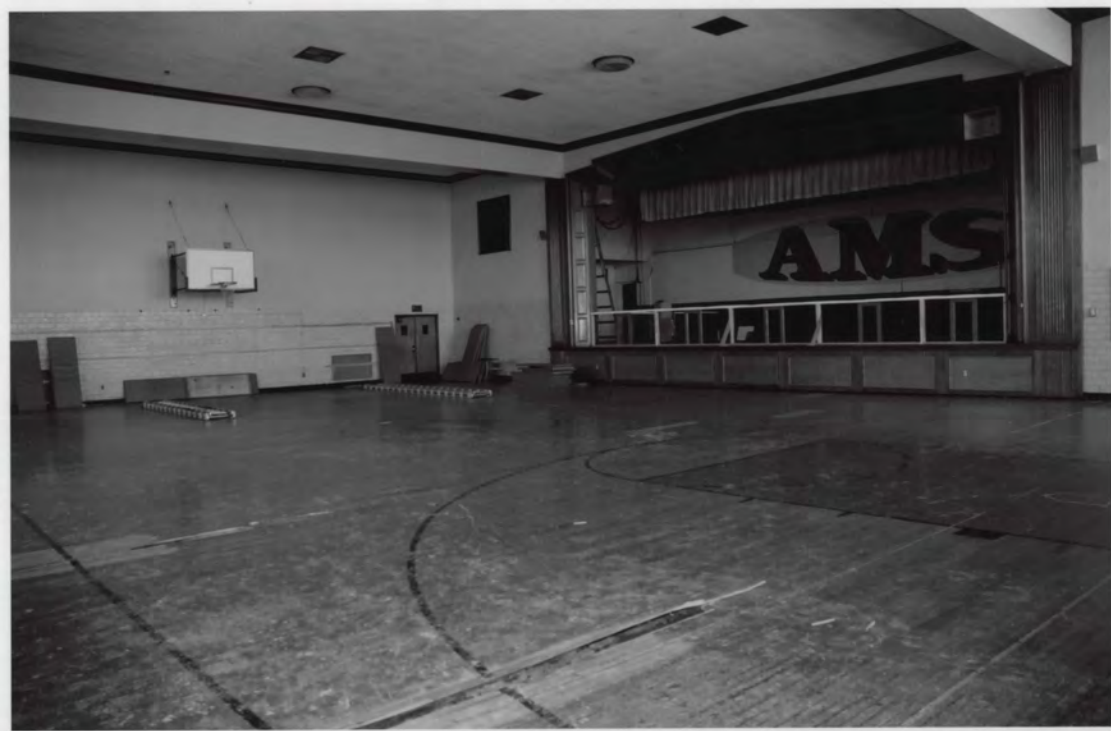
Athol, MA

photo 13

INTERIOR: 1st FLOOR, SE CORNER  
CLASSROOM, FACING SE

MA - ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 13. tif





VHB ... JENNA HIGGINS PHOTO MAR 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

INTERIOR: GYMNASIUM, STAGE

photo 14

FACING SW

MA - ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 14. tif



JENNA HIGGINS, VHB PHOTO MAR 2008

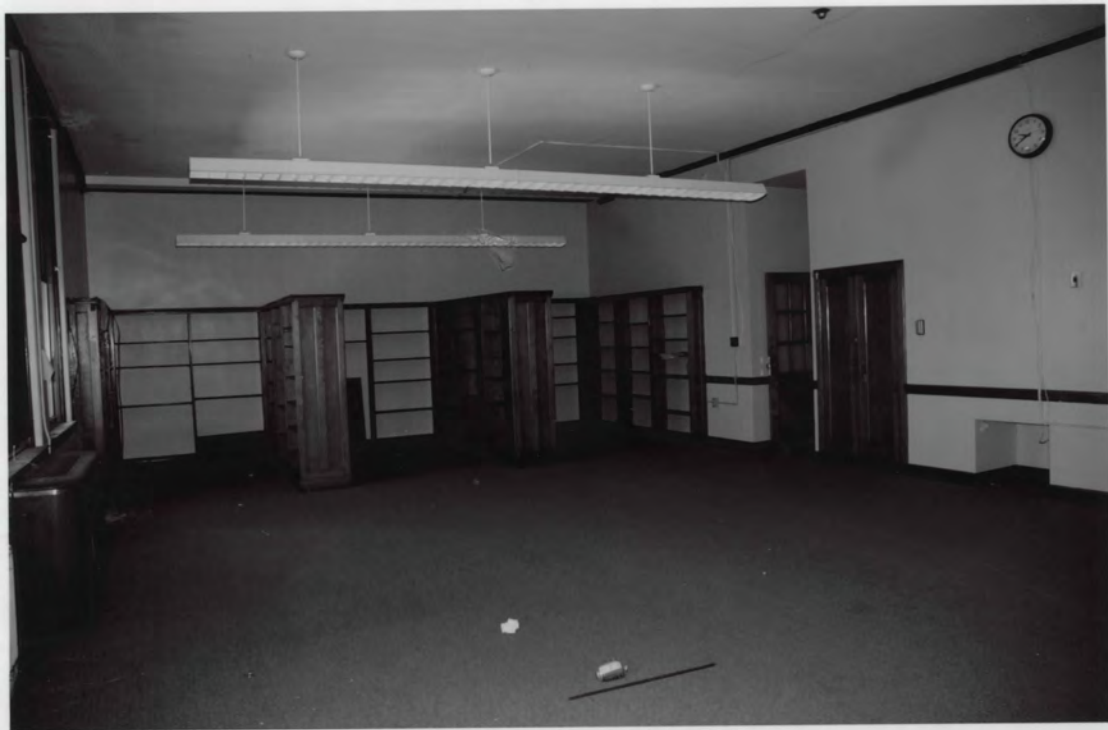
Athol High School

Athol, MA

INTERIOR: 2ND FLOOR, SW CLASSROOM

photo 15

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL IS. tif



VHB(JENNA HIGGINS) PHOTO MAR 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA INTERIOR: 2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

photo 16 FACING SE

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL 16.tif



|||||▶ JENNA HIGGINS PHOTO MAR 2008 |||

Athol High School  
Athol, MA  
photo 17

INTERIOR: BASEMENT, CENTER  
CLASSROOM, S SIDE, FACING NW

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGH SCHOOL 17. tif





JENNA HIGGINS, VHB photo 3/2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 18

INTERIOR: BASEMENT CAFETERIA

FACING SW

MA - ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 18. tif

A black and white photograph of a staircase. The stairs are made of dark wood and lead up to a double door. To the left of the stairs is a wooden railing with vertical balusters. To the right is a metal handrail. On the wall to the right of the door, the words "KEEP RIGHT" are written in bold, capital letters. The door has a transom window above it and two glass panels. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the door and a small light source on the wall to the right.

**KEEP  
RIGHT**

|||||▶ JENNA HIGGINS, VHB photo Mar 2008

Athol High School

Athol, MA

photo 19

INTERIOR: E STAIRWAY from  
BASEMENT. FACING E

MA-ATHOL(WORCESTERCOUNTY)-HIGHSCHOOL19.tif

EXIT





JENNA HIGGINS PHOTO  
VHB

MARCH 2008



Athol High School

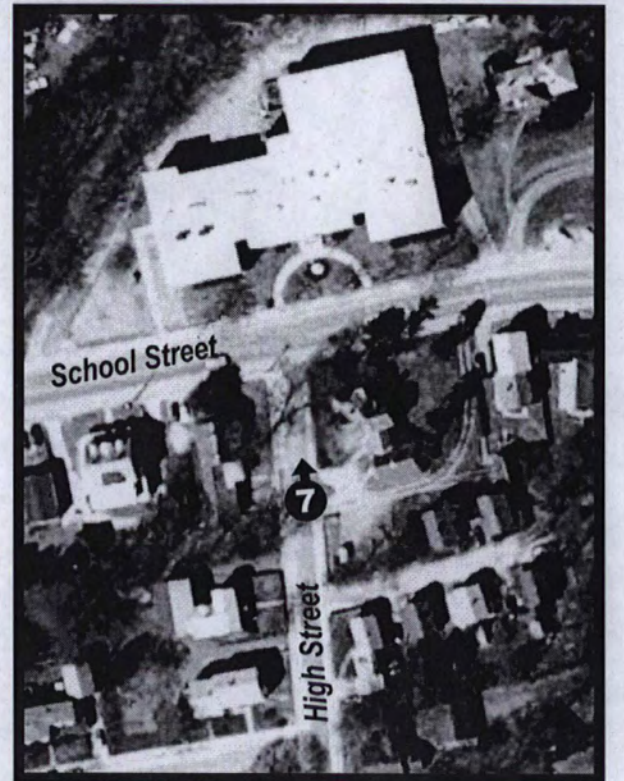
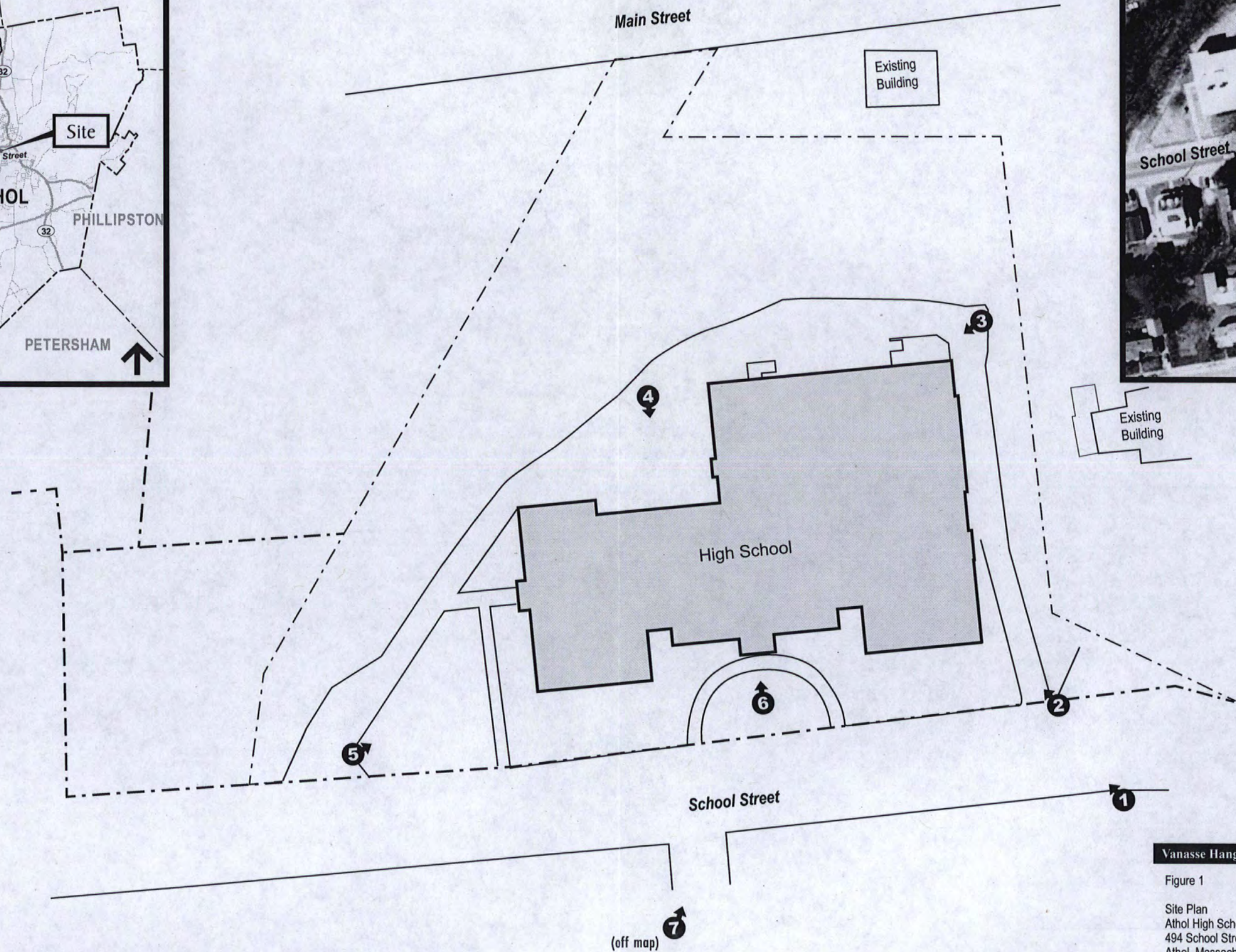
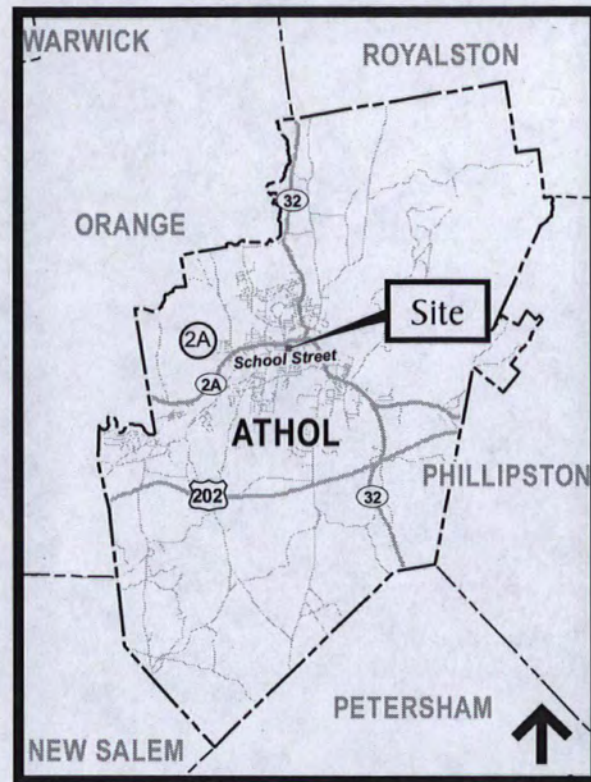
Athol, MA

photo 20

INTERIOR: BASEMENT, MAIN  
CORRIDOR, E STAIRWAY DOORS  
FACING E

MA - ATHOL (WORCESTER COUNTY) - HIGH SCHOOL 20. fig



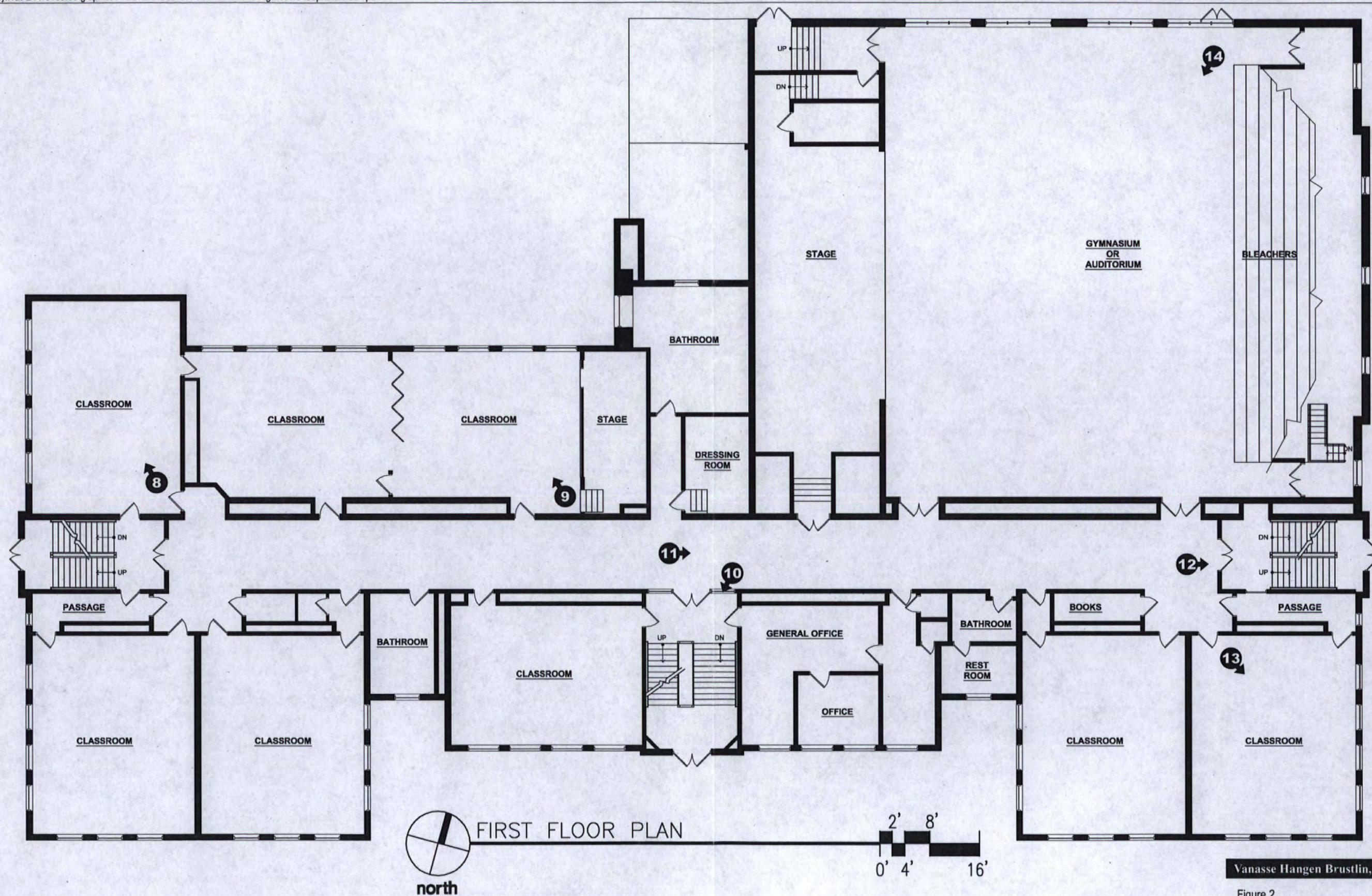


Not to Scale

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Figure 1

Site Plan  
Athol High School  
494 School Street  
Athol, Massachusetts  
National Register of Historic Places Nomination  
Photographs 1-7



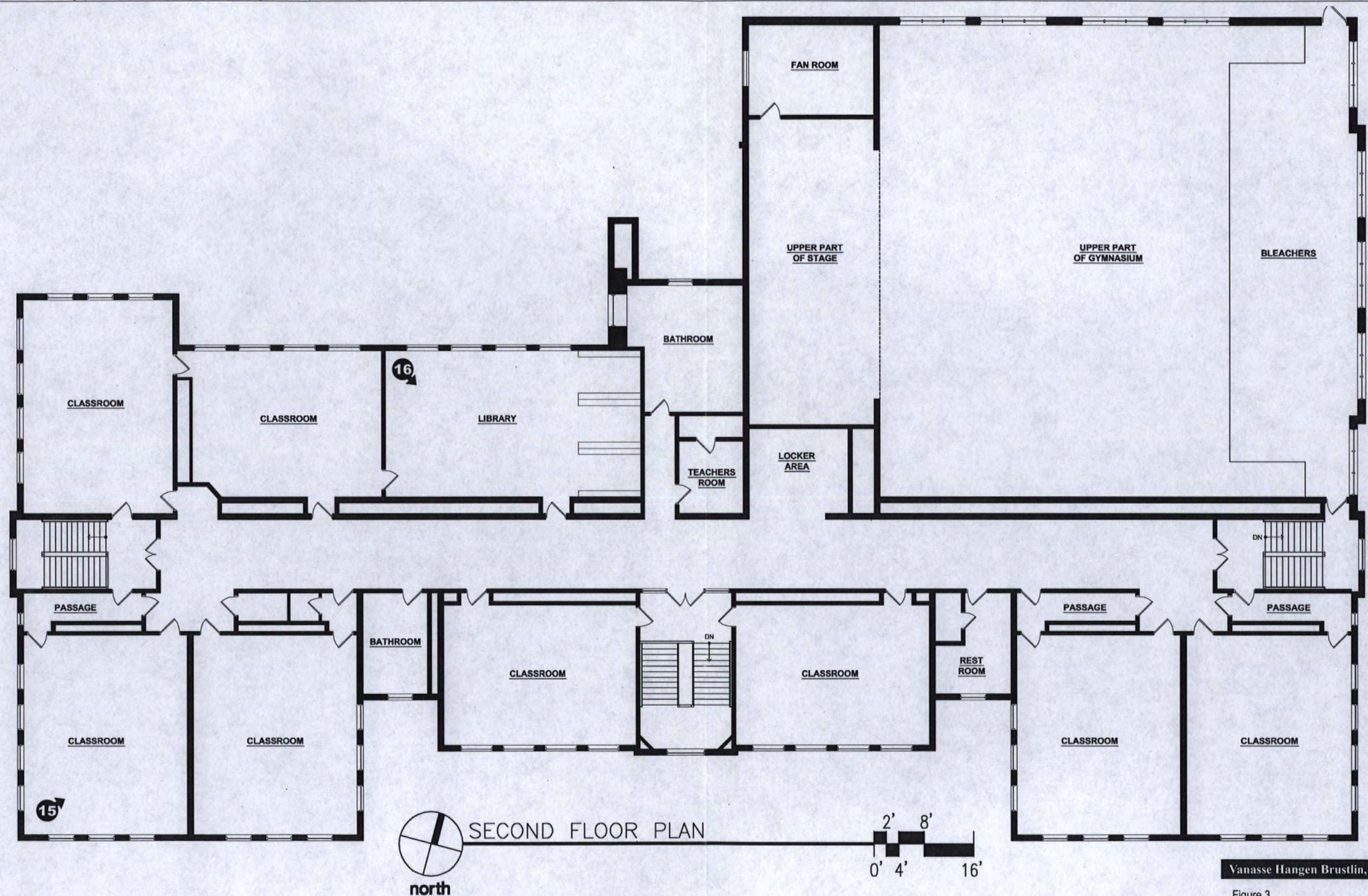
**Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.**

Figure 2

Existing First Floor  
Athol High School  
494 School Street  
Athol, Massachusetts  
National Register of Historic Places Nomination  
Photographs 8-14



Not to Scale

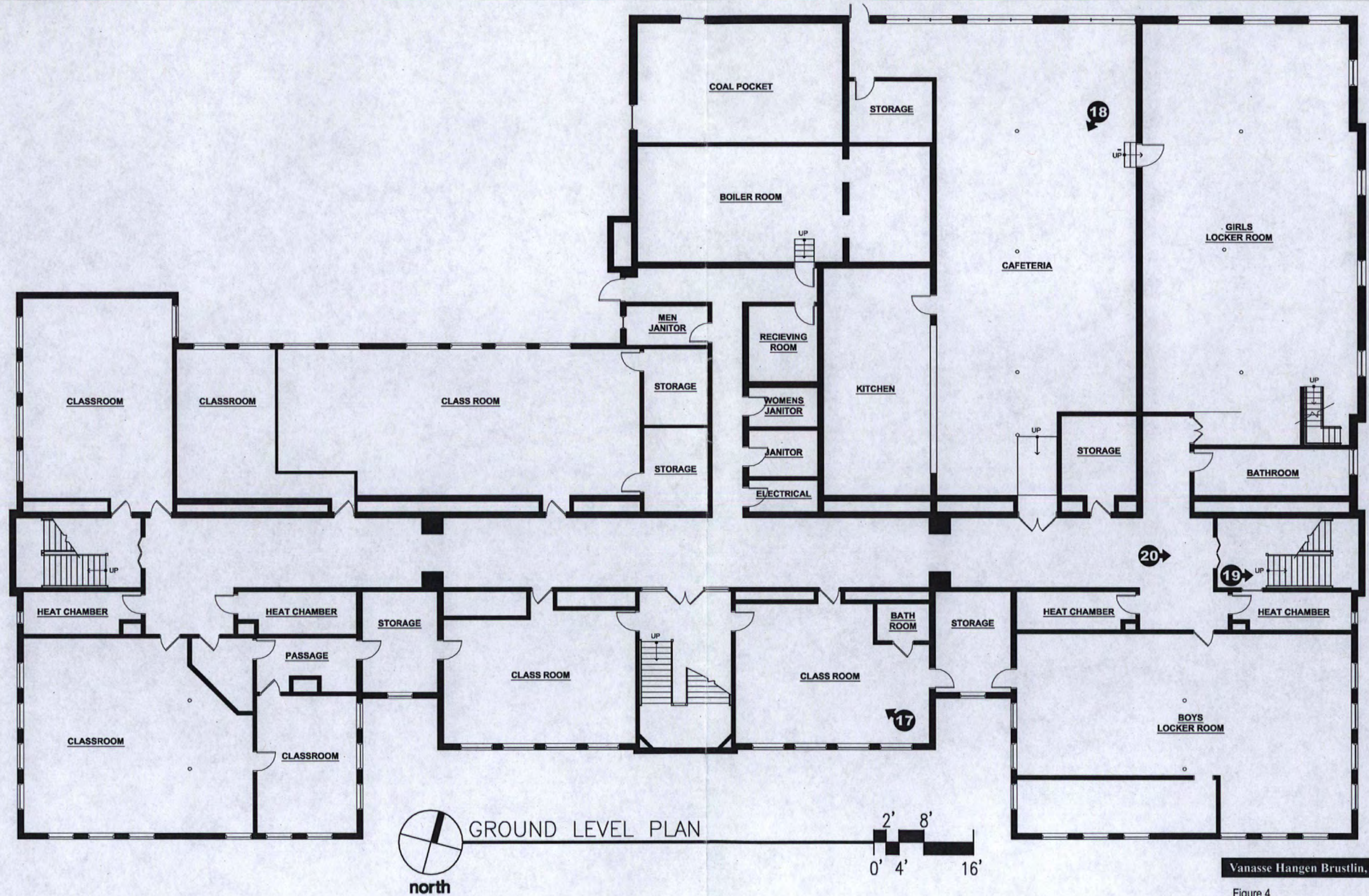


Not to Scale

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Figure 3

Existing Second Floor Plan  
Athol High School  
494 School Street  
Athol, Massachusetts  
National Register of Historic Places Nomination  
Photographs 15-16



GROUND LEVEL PLAN

2' 8'  
0' 4' 16'

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Figure 4

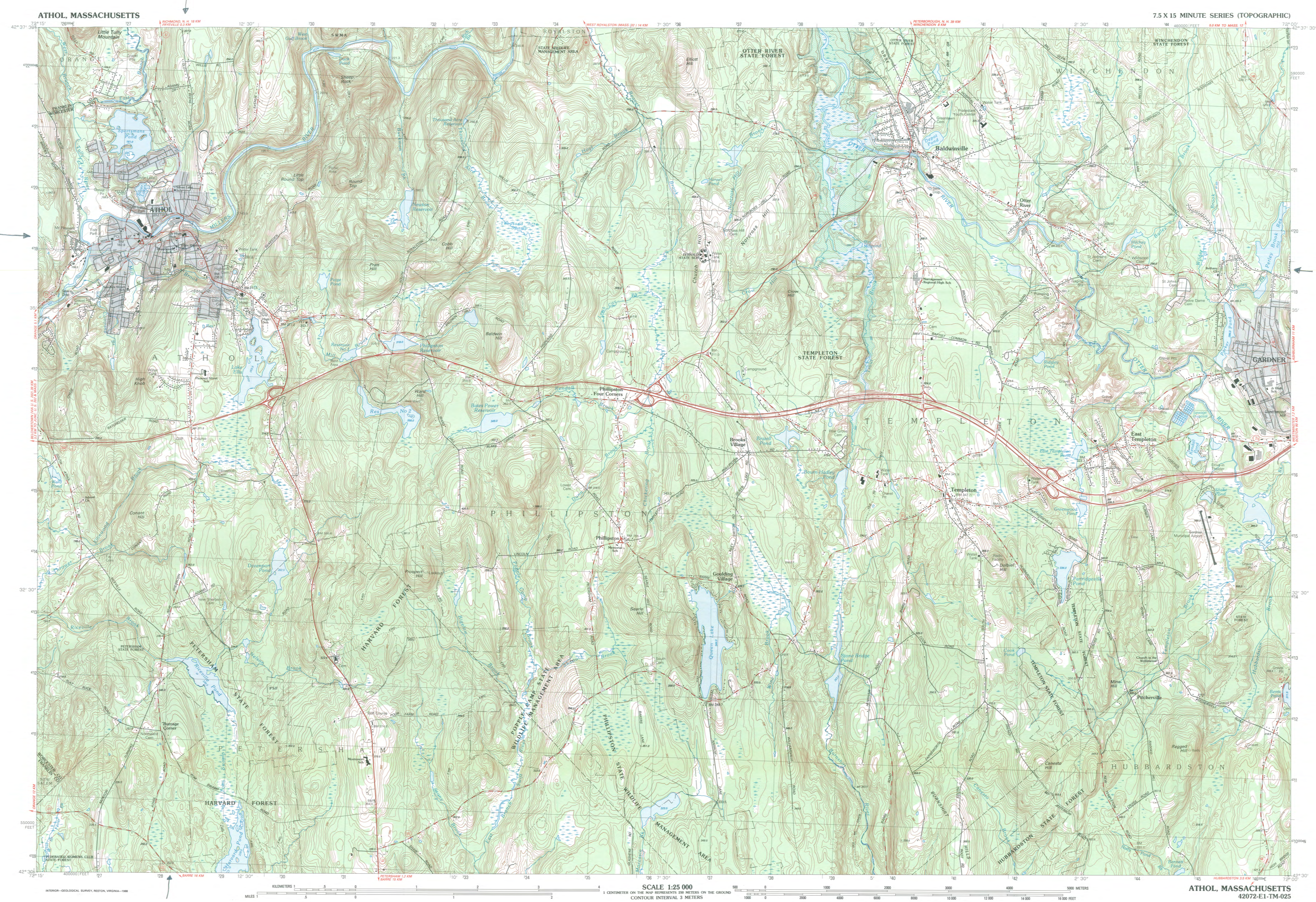
Existing Ground Floor Plan  
Athol High School  
494 School Street  
Athol, Massachusetts  
National Register of Historic Places Nomination  
Photographs 17-20



Not to Scale

Athol High School  
494 School Street  
Athol, Worcester County, MA

UTM REFERENCE:  
19J235798/4926814



**Athol** ATHOL(WORCESTER) MA  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

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**

1988

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works.  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies  
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1988  
Supersedes Athol and Templeton 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970  
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18  
Universal Transverse Mercator  
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 39 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
CONTROL 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  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

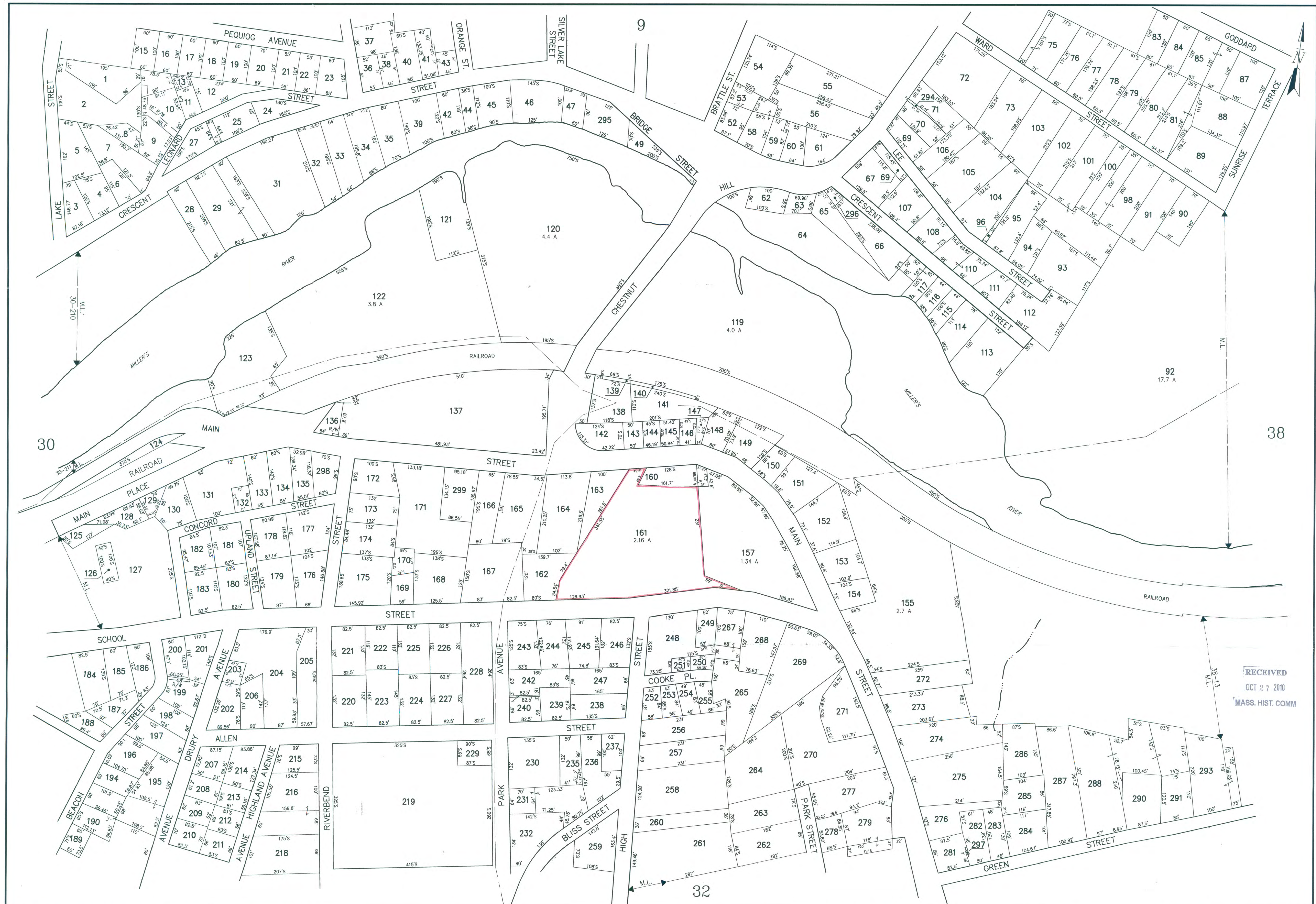
| CONVERSION TABLE                             |         | DECLINATION DIAGRAM                                                      |  | ADJOINING MAPS |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------|---|---|---|
| Meters                                       | Feet    |                                                                          |  | 1              | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 1                                            | 3.2808  |                                                                          |  | 4              | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 2                                            | 6.5617  |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| 3                                            | 9.8425  |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| 4                                            | 13.1234 |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| 5                                            | 16.4042 |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| 6                                            | 19.6850 |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| 7                                            | 22.9659 |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| 8                                            | 26.2467 |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| 9                                            | 29.5276 |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| 10                                           | 32.8084 |                                                                          |  |                |   |   |   |
| To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808 |         | UTM grid convergence (GN and 1983 magnetic declination) at center of map |  | 1 Northfield   |   |   |   |
| To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048 |         | Diagram is approximate                                                   |  | 2 Winchendon   |   |   |   |
|                                              |         |                                                                          |  | 3 Hubbardston  |   |   |   |
|                                              |         |                                                                          |  | 4 Orange       |   |   |   |
|                                              |         |                                                                          |  | 5 Fitchburg    |   |   |   |
|                                              |         |                                                                          |  | 6 Shrewsbury   |   |   |   |
|                                              |         |                                                                          |  | 7 Barre        |   |   |   |
|                                              |         |                                                                          |  | 8 Sterling     |   |   |   |



**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 | Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown | House; barn; church; school; large structure | Boundary | National, with monument | State | County, parish | Old township, precinct, district | Incorporated city, village, town | National or State reservation; small park | Land grant with monument; round section corner | U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section | Range, township, section line: location approximate | Fence or field line | Power transmission line, located tower | Dam; dam with lock | Cemetery; grave | Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument | Windmill; water well; spring | Mine shaft; prospect; adit or ore | 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 | Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small | Swamp; marsh | Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation | Woodland; scattered trees | Scrub; mangrove | Orchard; vineyard |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



RECEIVED  
OCT 27 2010  
MASS. HIST. COMM

THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.  
THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD 83.  
ORIGINAL PROPERTY MAPS WERE PREPARED BY GORDON E. AINSWORTH & ASSOCIATES, INC., SOUTH DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.  
MAPS ARE REVISED AND REPRINTED BY CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.

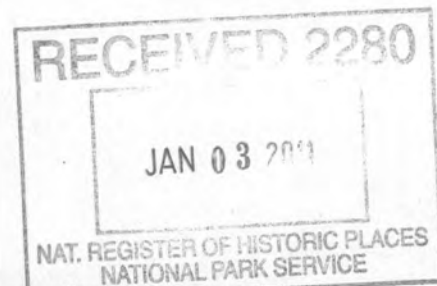
DIGITIZED IN 2003 BY  
**CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOC. INC.**  
PROFESSIONAL GIS CONSULTANTS  
MUNICIPAL MAPPING - GIS - PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
11 PLEASANT STREET, LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03601  
(603)444-6768 - (800)322-4540 - FAX: (603)444-1366 - WWW.CAI-INFO.COM

LEGEND  
PARCEL AREA . . . . . 4.2 A  
RECORD DIMENSION . . . . . 100'  
SCALED DIMENSION . . . . . 100'  
MATCH LINE . . . . . M.L.  
SUBDIVISION LOT NO. . . . . ②  
RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS . . . . .   
COMMON OWNERSHIP . . . . .   
WATER . . . . .

FEET SCALE 1" = 100'  
0 100 200 300  
25 0 25 50 75  
METERS  
REVISED TO : JANUARY 1, 2010

PROPERTY MAPS  
**ATHOL**  
MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM  
13 9 8  
30 38  
29 32 37  
MAP NO.  
**31**



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

December 29, 2010

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Athol High School, 494 School Street, Athol (Worcester), 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 property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Anthony Brighenti, Chair, Board of Selectmen  
John R. Greene, Athol Historical Commission  
Richard Hayden, Stratford Capital Group, LLC  
Rita Walsh, VHB, Consultant  
John Lambert, Athol Planning Board