

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 7 1986**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Washington School (preferred)

and or common Washington School Professional Building

**2. Location**

street & number 8 School Street N/A not for publication

city, town Weymouth N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Norfolk code 021

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Washington School Realty Trust

street & number P. O. Box 21

city, town Weymouth N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number 550 High Street

city, town Dedham state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1978 Inv # 142  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission, 80 Boylston Street

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

## 7. Description

Washington School, Weymouth, Massachusetts

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Washington School, East Weymouth, was designed by Boston architect S. S. Woodcock in 1887. It is a fine example of late Queen Anne architectural design applied to an institutional use.

The school faces north and occupies a high, flat site overlooking a busy intersection at Jackson Square, commercial, civic, and cultural focus of this village, one of four that have historically made up this coastal town 14 miles south of Boston. A graduated granite retaining wall, 12 feet at its highest point, defines the southern and eastern edges of the property.

Constructed of wood, sheathed in a mix of clapboard and patterned shingles, this large, two-story building with full basement and unfinished attic is in good condition on interior and exterior and retains almost all its original features. The building's plan is essentially symmetrical, a T-shaped structure composed of main block and projecting central pavilion, with covered porches tucked on either side and with balanced fenestration. The building's exterior displays a number of Queen Anne/Shingle Style decorative elements--fishscale and serrated shingles, clapboards, quarter-round sunbursts, turned spindles, and delicate lunette--common to the dynamism of this late 19th century style. The foundation is constructed of massive, rectangular cut-granite blocks; the roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Windows, which are 6/6, are for the most part original.

The larger block at the rear of the building, four bays deep by six bays wide, has a high hip roof, which is broken in the rear by one gabled dormer. The central pavilion (four bays deep by three bays wide), which has a pitched jerkinhead roof with a gabled dormer on each side, was once surmounted by a square open tower with a pyramidal roof topped by a weathervane. At the juncture of the roofs of the main block and the pavilion, on both the east and west sides, there is a one bay wide, two-story projection which on dropping to the first story, helps form the twin entrance porches.

The building's elaborate decoration is typical of the Queen Anne style and is concentrated in the roof dormers, belt course, entrance porches, and the facade of the center pavilion. All the roof dormers, as well as the gable on the center pavilion, have serrated oblong shingles of which some, as on the west gable dormer, are original. A wide belt course of fishscale shingles encircles the building, visually separating the first and second floor. The two side porches, which seem to be modeled after a pattern in William T. Comstock's Modern Architectural Designs and Details (New York 1881), Plates 49 and 51, which feature turned posts supporting quarter sunbursts under a frieze of turned spindles. The porches now only differ from the originals in that they have utilitarian concrete steps with pipe railing. Originally there were five low-rising steps around the sides and front of the porches.

Continued



## 8. Significance

Washington School, Weymouth, Massachusetts

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

Specific dates 1887 Builder/Architect Shepard S. Woodcock (1824-1910)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Washington School, Weymouth, retains integrity of location, design, materials, feeling, workmanship, and association. Built in 1887-1888, the school stands as a rare survival: a virtually intact wood-frame example of a late 19th century educational structure, built on a domestic scale. It is a fine example of the Queen Anne style, architect-designed, with well-preserved detailing on both interior and exterior. The building thus meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

East Weymouth was one of four villages that evolved within the Weymouth bounds (incorporated 1635). In 1681, the first school was built near the town common, west of the nominated property. By 1799, eight school districts were established, each of which was to provide its own schoolhouse. The district system continued in use in Weymouth until 1871. By the mid 19th century, East Weymouth, one of the cores of Weymouth's population, had four single-room schoolhouses, the High, Pleasant, School, and Grant Street Schools. None are believed to be extant, although it is possible that the materials from several of the schools may have been incorporated into later residences. Under the aegis of the town's first Superintendent of Schools and his successors, Weymouth undertook a building program that began ca. 1870 and lasted until 1915 and was designed to provide new, modern facilities for the town's schoolchildren.

East Weymouth developed as a small, compact industrial center with a distinct residential section. Its development was centered around the juncture of three colonial-period roadways: present-day Commercial, Broad, and High Streets. Shoemaking was common throughout the town during the late 18th and early 19th century, with "ten-footers" (small shoeshops) scattered across Weymouth. In East Weymouth as elsewhere in Massachusetts, lumber and grist mills were established along the town's riverways (the Back River, site of a number of mills, flows just to the north and west of the nominated property). Boatbuilding and other marine-associated industries were also present. In the 1830s, East Weymouth's economy diversified with the construction of an iron foundry, the Weymouth Iron Company, along the banks of the Back River. Iron ore shipped from Hingham Bay up the Back River was then hauled overland to the smelters. The company produced the nails and tacks needed for the town's increasingly active shoe industry. Economic prosperity brought a period of concentrated building throughout the mid 19th century to all parts of Weymouth and the town's population grew steadily. The large, wood-frame Washington School was built at the center of East Weymouth, overlooking the

Broad/Commercial Street juncture, to serve the village's growing populace. It was designed on a larger scale than earlier school buildings, with six classrooms on two floors that together served to replace the smaller district schools. The High Street School, which had stood on this site since 1839, was demolished in 1886 to make room for the nominated property.

Continued

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .5 acre

Quadrangle name Weymouth

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References

A 

1	9	3	4	1	3	5	0	4	6	7	5	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded Northerly by High Street, 145.07"; Easterly by land now or formerly Harold P1 Greene et ux, 162.56'; Southerly by land now or formerly of said Greene and now or formerly George E. Connors, 136.76'; Westerly by School Street, 178.17'. See Weymouth Assessors Plan, Sheet 23, Plot 1, Block 312. (Attached)

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission, with Preservation Consultants Minnie Fanin and Monique Lehner.

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 1986

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

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie Talmage

title Executive Director date May 2, 1986  
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

[Signature] Entered in the 6-5-86  
Keeper of the National Register National Register date

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Washington School, Weymouth, Massachusetts

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

The architect of the Washington School, as well as others in Weymouth, was Maine-born Shepard S. Woodcock. His design for a Queen Anne/Shingle Style school was in keeping with domestic architecture in Weymouth during this period of intense growth. The building originally had a tower, now lost, which was in all likelihood similar to that on East Weymouth's Queen Anne-style Jefferson School (1889, NR 1981), also the work of Woodcock. He was already known to Weymouth as the designer of two schools, now demolished: the Franklin School (1877-1878, Stick Style) and the Hunt School (1881-1882, style unknown). From 1855-1901, Woodcock headed an architectural firm in Boston whose output included many public buildings such as seminaries, Masonic halls, churches, and schools. An article in the Boston Transcript on March 3, 1910, reported that Woodcock's firm had built fifty schools in a variety of currently popular styles. His work pleased the citizenry of Weymouth, who praised the Washington School for its comfort, generous scale and impressive appearance. It was deemed a "valuable addition of the town" in the September 9, 1887, issue of the Weymouth Weekly Gazette.

The school remained in use as a six-grade elementary school for most of the 20th century. By the 1970s, with the opening of a more modern facility in East Weymouth, it was serving only the first two grades, as well as special-education classes. In 1979, a "Jackson Square Urban Design Plan" named the school as a "major focal point for the area," requiring only cosmetic attention to be brought back to its former splendor. The school was closed in 1981 and remained vacant until 1984, when it was sold and rehabilitated for use as office space.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Washington School, Weymouth, Massachusetts  
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boston Transcript. March 3, 1910, p. 13. Obituary of S.S. Woodcock.

Nash, Gilbert. Historical Sketch of the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts from 1622 to 1884. Town of Weymouth: 1885.

Nason, The Rev. Elias, Gazetteer of the State of Massachusetts. Boston:  
B. B. Russell, 57 Cornhill, 1890.

Weymouth Historical Society, History of Weymouth, Massachusetts. Vols. 1  
and 2, 1923.

Weymouth Planning Board, Jackson Square Design Plan. 1979.

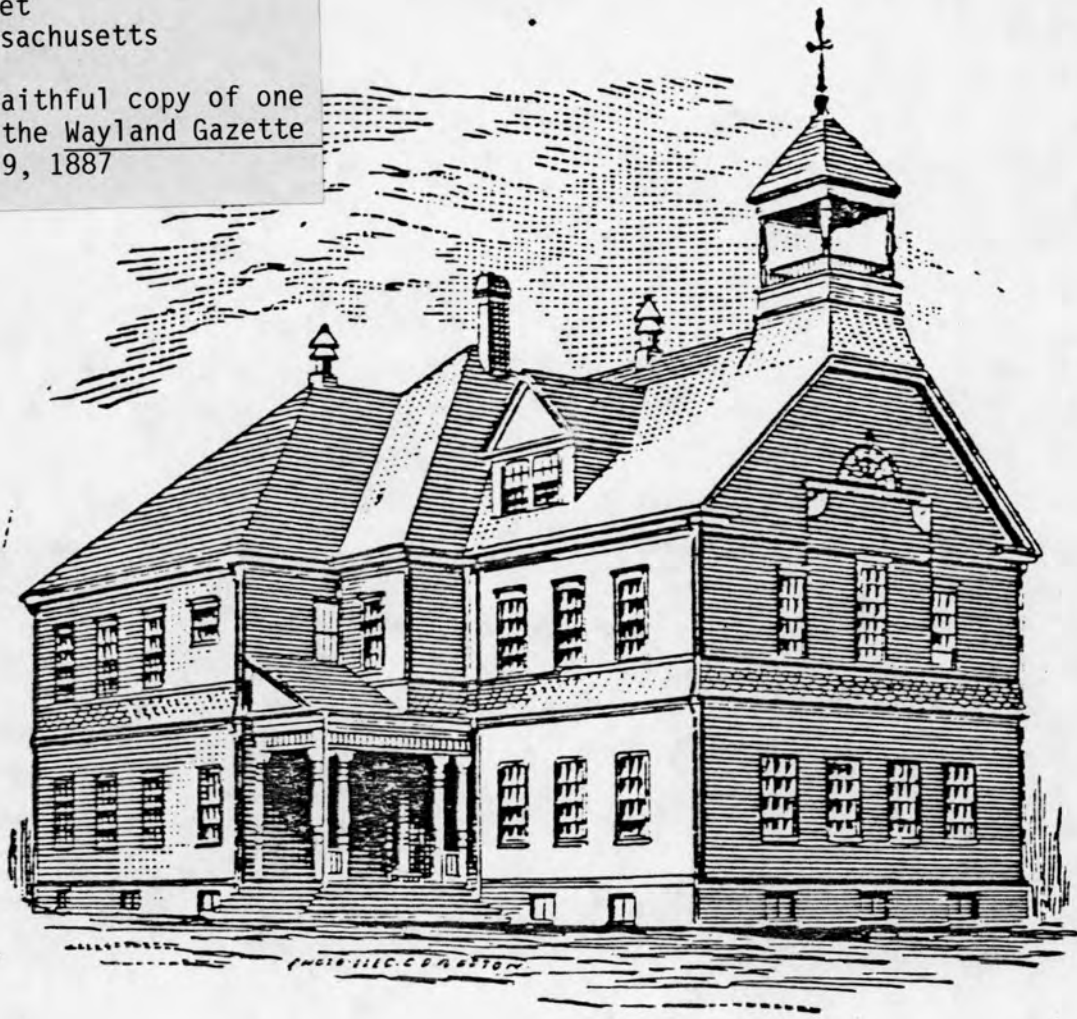
Weymouth 350 Anniversary Committee, Weymouth 350 Anniversary. 1972.

Weymouth Town Reports. 1886, 1887.

The Weymouth Gazette. September 9, 1887, page 2.

Washington Street School  
8 School Street  
Weymouth, Massachusetts

Sketch is a faithful copy of one  
appearing in the Wayland Gazette  
of September 9, 1887



*Washington School*  
*(formerly High St. School)*

*1888 ~ 1981*

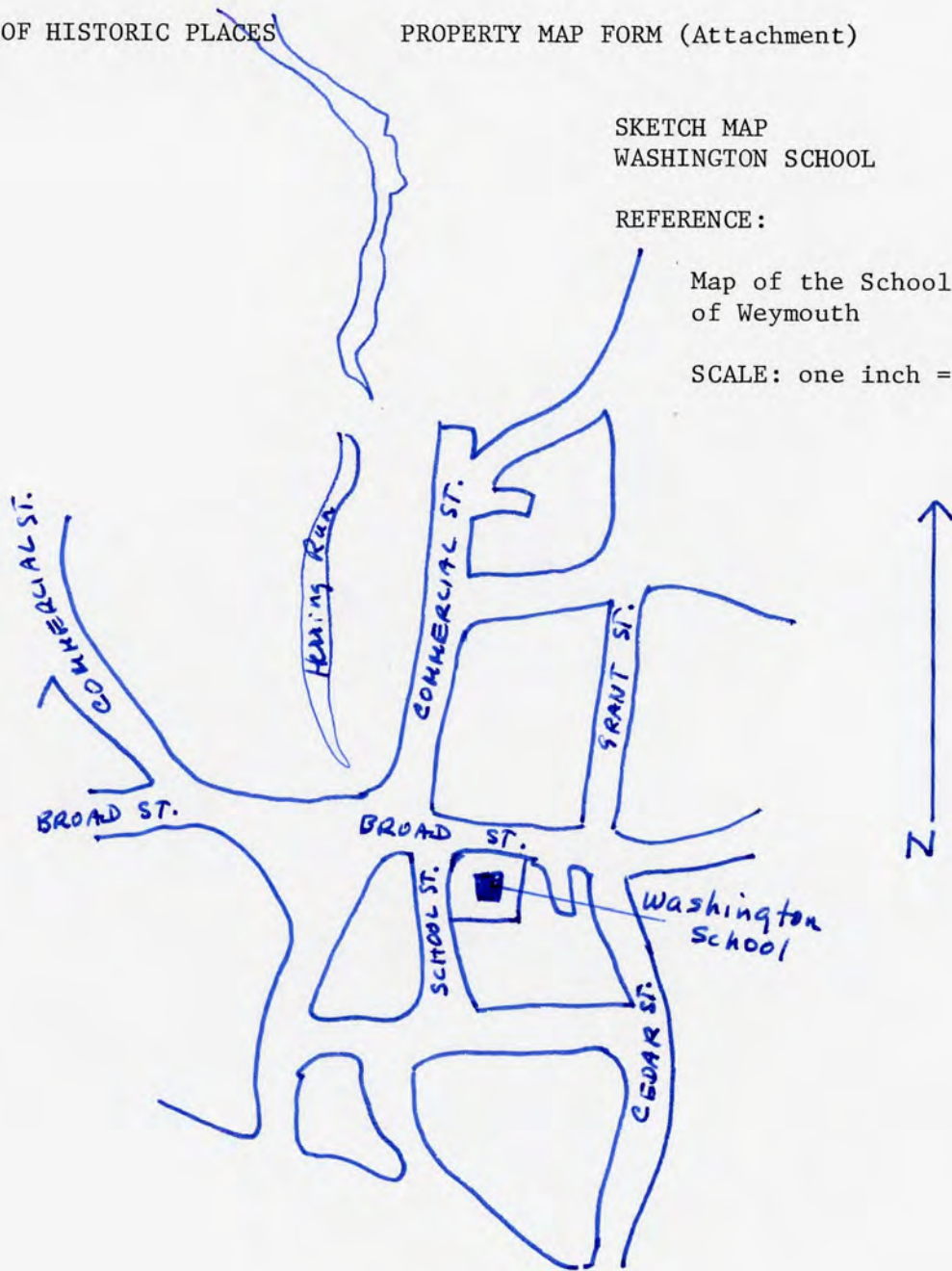
*Russ Warren*

SKETCH MAP  
WASHINGTON SCHOOL

REFERENCE:

Map of the School Department  
of Weymouth

SCALE: one inch = 200 feet



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Washington School  
Norfolk County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 7 1986  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 6/5/86 - 6/21/86  
Action: ACCEPT  
6-5-86  
Entered in the RETURN  
National Register REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



No 1 of three 8x10

The Washington School  
8 School Street  
East Weymouth

Photo by Monique B. Lehner, April 1984  
72 South Pleasant Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Negative with photographer.

Pavillion facade and East side.



No. 2 of three 8x10

The Weymouth School  
8 School Street  
East Weymouth

Photo by Monique B. Lehner, April 1984  
72 South Pleasant Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Negative with photographer

Detail of pavillion gable.



No. 3 of three 8x10

The Washington School  
8 School Street  
East Weymouth

Photo by Monique B. Lehner, April 1984  
72 South Pleasant St.  
Hingham, MA 02043

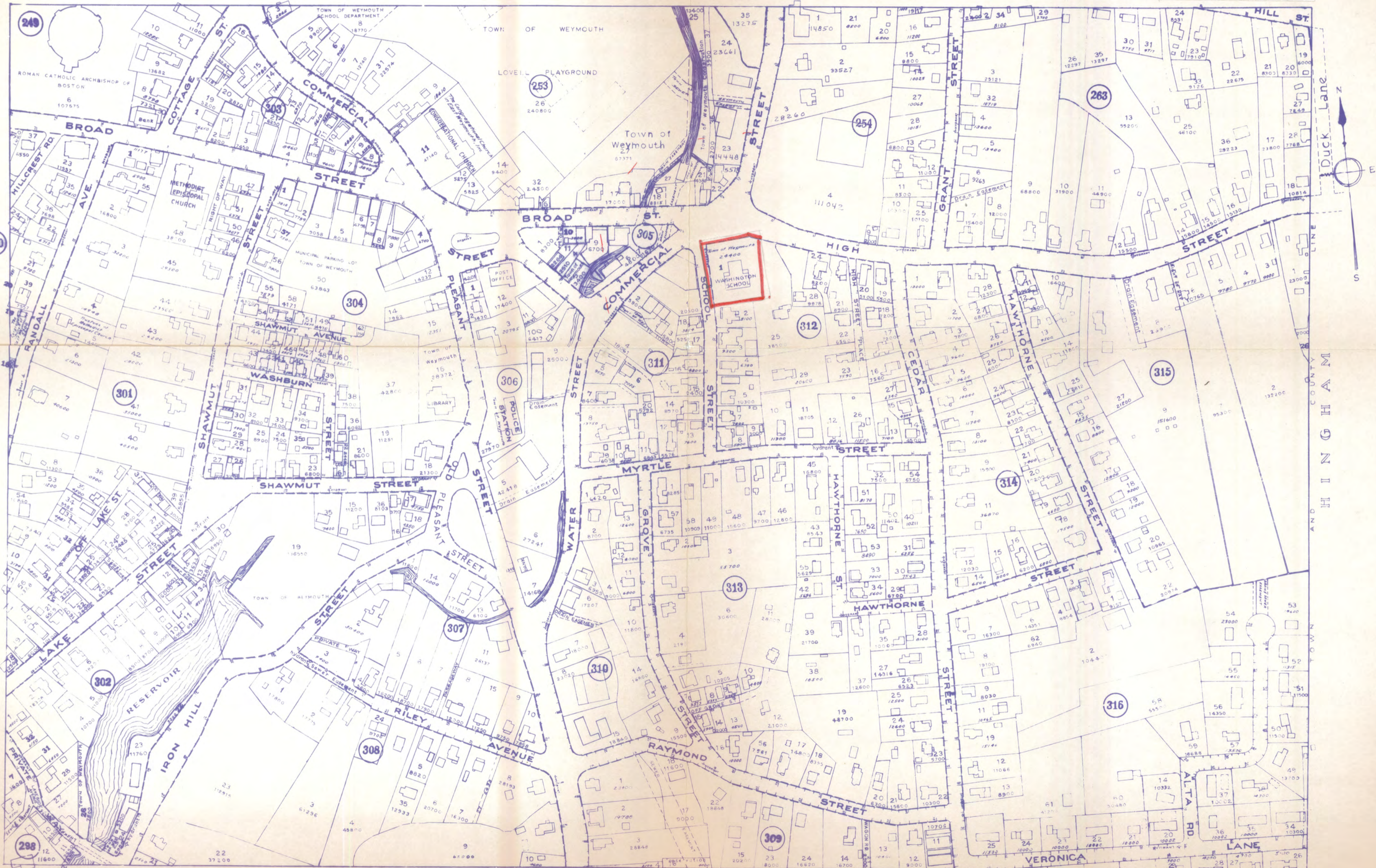
Negative with photographer.

Detail of northeast porch.

The Washington School  
Weymouth, Massachusetts  
24,400 square feet

Washington Street School  
8 School Street  
Weymouth, Massachusetts  
Engineering Dept. of the Dept.  
of Public Works, Weymouth, MA  
Sheet 23; 1909, revised 1982  
Scale: 1" = 200'

19



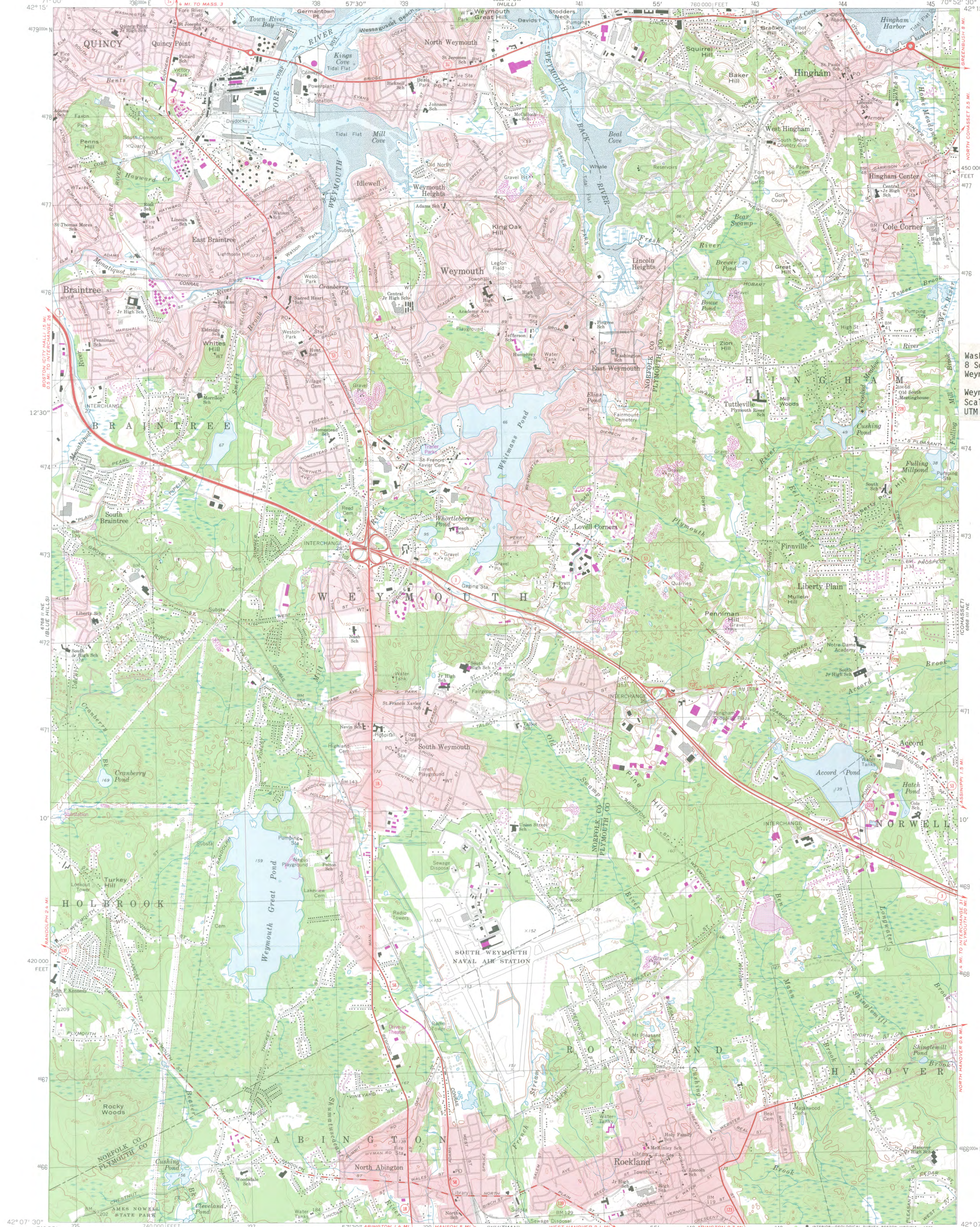
PLAN OF A PART OF WEYMOUTH

1909

ENGINEERING DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

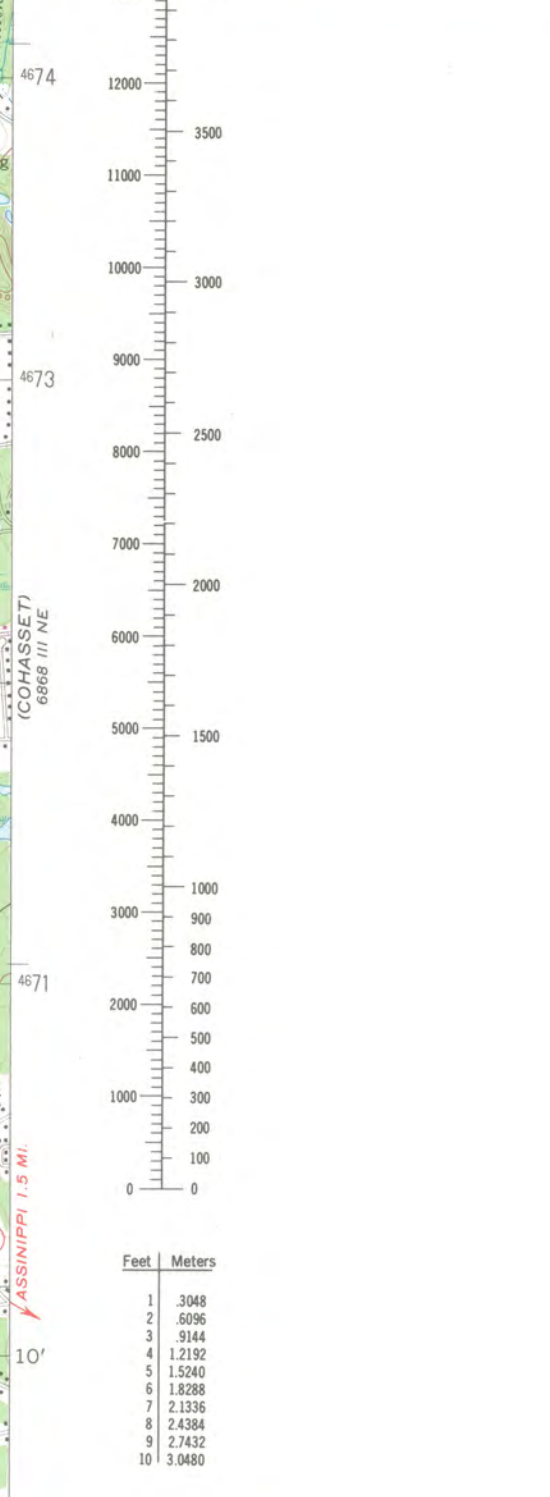
SHEET 23

REVISED TO JANUARY 1, 1982

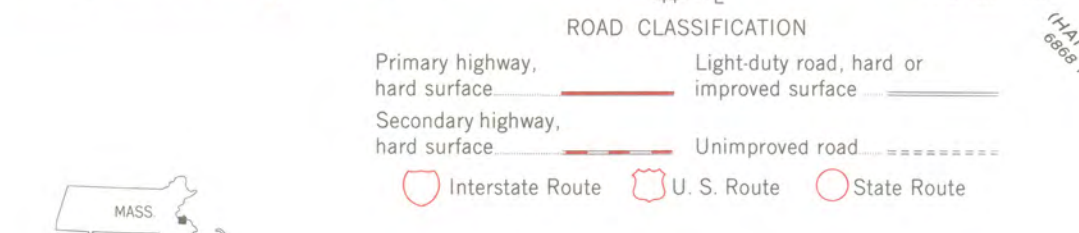
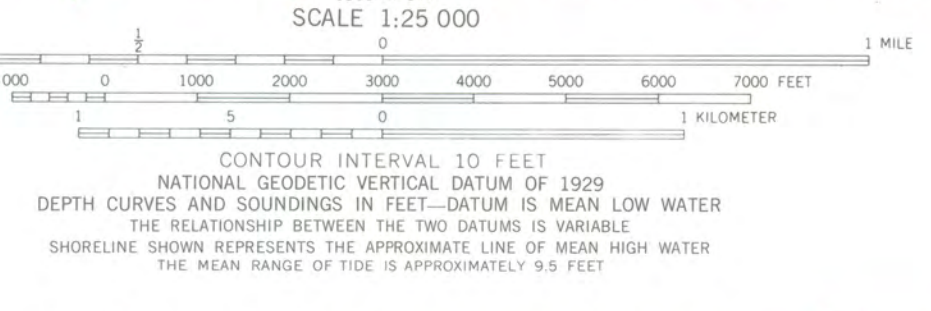
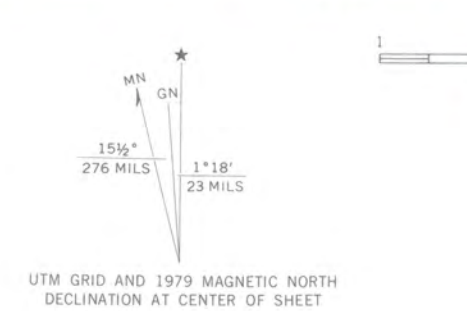


Washington Street School  
8 School Street  
Weymouth, Massachusetts

Weymouth Quadrangle  
Scale: 1:25,000  
UTM Reference: 19/341350/4675200



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
Topography by planimetric surveys 1936. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 246 (1971)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19  
Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



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

Revisions shown in purple located in cooperation with State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

WEYMOUTH, MASS.  
N4207.5—W7052.5/7.5  
1971  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6868 III NW—SERIES V814

# WASHINGTON SCHOOL REALTY TRUST

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P.O. Box 21, Weymouth, Massachusetts 02189

(617)337-4253

April 9, 1986

Carol Shull, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
18th. and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

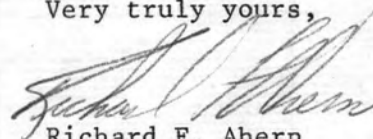
Washington School Realty Trust recognizes that the following property will be considered for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts State Review Board at its meeting on April 9, 1986.

Washington School Professional Building  
8 School Street  
Weymouth, Ma. 02189

Washington School Realty Trust is aware of both the incentives and disincentives of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 and other consequences of National Register listing and hereby waives by right the 30 day commenting period.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Richard F. Ahern  
MANAGING TRUSTEE

c.c.: Sarah J. Zimmerman, Preservation Planning Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission



p 093546536

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State  
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Valerie A. Talmage  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 24, 1986

Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of Interior, National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Acushnet, LONG PLAIN FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, 1342 North Main Street.

Wareham, TOBEY HOMESTEAD, Main Street and Sandwich Road.

✓ Weymouth, WASHINGTON SCHOOL, 8 School Street HPCA #  
0677-85-MA-85-0690/10196 MA.

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Due to a technical error, the property owner of the Washington School was notified less than 30 days prior to the State Review Board's meeting. For this reason, the owner has waived its right to the 30-day commenting letter, and fully supports the nomination. The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen in Weymouth was notified in time, so no waiver is necessary.

Sincerely,

Sarah Zimmerman  
Director, Preservation Planning  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

SZ/lS