

JUN - 3 2016

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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: District No. 5 School

Other names/site number: Second East School

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 311 East Street

City or town: Petersham State: MA County: Worcester

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>May 24, 2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <b>Brona Simon, SHPO</b> Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official: _____ Date _____	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**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):

*Joe Edson H. Beall*      *7-18-16*  
Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Schoolhouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY/ Greek Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE/ Granite; Walls: WOOD/ Clapboard; Roof: WOOD/Shake.

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The District No. 5 School, also known as the Second East School, Petersham, MA, is a small, Greek Revival-style, one-room schoolhouse that retains a very high level of integrity. The schoolhouse is located at the eastern edge of rural Petersham in western Worcester County. The timber-frame structure is clad with clapboards and features characteristic Greek Revival details: a paneled door with simple architrave and cornerblocks, overhanging eaves with gable-end cornice returns, and pilasters. The interior of the building is nearly identical to its 1849 appearance, including wood-plank desks and painted-board blackboards. The approximately 24-by-30-foot building is located on a diminutive .03-acre lot atop a rise, facing south. The lot is surrounded by woods on the north, west, and east elevations; the south elevation faces rolling open fields, which characterized much of Petersham at the time of the school's construction. Contributing features include stone walls, a set of granite-slab steps, and an incised doorstep.

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## Narrative Description

### Exterior

The **District No. 5 School** is a single-story, one-room schoolhouse of pegged timber-frame construction that rests on a rough-face split granite foundation and wood piers (photo 1). The building does not have a basement. The building is located along a rural road and faces south toward open fields. A set of **eight granite-slab steps**, added ca. 1963 as part of a road regrading project, leads from the school to the roadway (photo 2).<sup>1</sup> The north, east, and west elevations abut woods. A low, dry-laid **stone wall** is located along the east elevation. A **second dry-laid stone wall** runs east-west along the roadside at the west elevation. An **incised stone doorstep**, installed in 1937 (photo 7), stands just below the building's entrance door. No outbuildings exist.

The building measures 23 feet five inches in width, and 29 feet five inches in length. The building is clad in wood clapboards with a four-inch exposure. The cedar-shingle gable roof overhangs the east, west, and south (front) elevations. Pilasters with projecting cornices are located below gable-end cornice returns at the southeast and southwest corners of the building. The north (rear) elevation has flush eaves and flush cornerboards (photo 2). An interior brick chimney, as shown in historic photographs, was located at the north gable peak, but was removed between 1928 and 1946.

The original six-panel wood door and three-light transom are centered in the south elevation. A simple architrave with plain cornerblocks surrounds the doorway and transom. Two bays of 6/6 wood-sash windows with rolled-glass lights and narrow wood muntins are located on the east, west, and north elevations. The windows are protected by board-and-batten shutters attached to their exteriors. On the east and west elevations, these shutters have been placed on the interiors of the windows for ease of removal. Shutters are mentioned as having been installed in 1943, according to historical society minutes, and they are visible, along with the narrow security bars on the interior of the lower half of each window, in a 1946 photograph.<sup>2</sup>

### Interior

A coatroom is located at the entry and extends the width of the building (photo 3). Cast-iron coat hooks line the walls. The coatroom walls are finished with wide flushboards; some boards appear to be hand-planed, and others show vertical saw marks. A center, four-panel, wood interior door leads into the classroom. Ventilation is provided by a louvered wood transom over the interior door. Floors throughout the building are wide boards laid flush. A metal plate is attached to the floor near the entrance from the coatroom. A cast-iron stove similar to the existing 19<sup>th</sup>-century stove, a gift to the present owner, the Petersham Historical Society, would have been placed on the plate. The drum stove was removed in 1946.<sup>3</sup> The stovepipe would have connected the stove to the chimney stack at the rear center of the room.

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<sup>1</sup> It has been reported that the stones were pulled from a local cellarhole. Delight Haines, MHC Form PET.72, 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Petersham Historical Society minutes, October 8, 1943; and "Roofing Bee is Staged to Protect Old School," *Worcester Telegram and Evening Gazette* (September 5, 1946), Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of the Secretary of the Petersham Historical Society, 1948, Petersham Historical Society. According to a note from Beatrice Kieffer, July 11, 1948, to a member of the historical society, "the stove was sold to a Mr. Heald of the Heald Machine Co., Worcester. It was made by his grandfather in Barre and he planned to keep it as a family relic."

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The classroom ceiling is covered with painted plaster that was repaired in 2012 (photos 4 and 5). The upper walls are plaster covered with one layer of wallpaper. The much-faded paper appears to be machine roller-printed paper, and may date from the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Vertical stripes of brown scrollwork alternate with large blooming flowers in what may have been green ink. A vertical, light-brown *moiré* design frames the floral pattern. A Petersham School Committee report of 1868-9 states that three schools had been papered in the previous year.

The wainscot is constructed of four wide boards with beaded edges, laid horizontally. The wainscot rises to the height of the window sill. Blackboards along the south wall are constructed of wide—up to eighteen inches—plank boards painted black. A small wood shelf is located at the east and west corners for chalk.

Five rows of desks with attached seats, or “settees,” each three feet eight inches wide, face south toward the entrance and the teacher’s desk, located in the southeast corner of the room. The top and sides of the desks are constructed of wide wood boards, joined by tongue and groove where needed. The desks have clipped corners and a chamfered top to prevent pencils from rolling along the angled top. The desks are graduated in height from the front row to the back row. The first-row seats are eleven inches from the floor; the following rows are, respectively, thirteen, fifteen, sixteen, and again sixteen inches from the floor. A fixed wooden bench along the length of the north wall serves as the back row of seating. The teacher’s desk, also constructed of wide boards, is three feet eight inches wide with a hinged, angled top for storage underneath the desk top. The teacher’s desk is two feet eleven inches high. A movable settee with turned spindles is located beneath the east blackboard.

The building has never been electrified or outfitted with plumbing. Alterations to the building have been few, aside from routine repairs. The original 12/12 sash were replaced with the extant 6/6 sash, likely in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A ca. 1900 photograph of the school shows the 12/12 windows, but a 1924 photograph of the school shows the extant 6/6 windows (see figures 1 and 2). Three large, wood plaques are stored in the building for safekeeping. A large four foot by three feet three inches wood plaque, created in 1941, commemorates the transfer of the school from the Second East School Association to the Petersham Historical Society. A second large plaque, painted ca. 1930, contains the names of all the teachers who worked at the school, and formerly hung on an interior wall of the school. A third large plaque, also painted ca. 1930, contains the names of honorary and charter members of the Second East School Association, and also hung on an interior wall. Two smaller wood plaques of the same period, on which are written “The History of the World is the Biography of Great Men” and “The Foundation of Every State is the Education of its Youth,” are located on the west wall of the coatroom. The metal flagpole bracket was affixed ca. 1924 to the south face of the west pilaster.<sup>4</sup> The flagpole has been removed to prevent theft, and is stored inside the building when the building is not in use for a program. In 1936, the Petersham Historical Society voted to “mark the sites of the old District schoolhouses.”<sup>5</sup> In August of that year, permission was granted by the Second East School Alumni Association to allow the historical society to incise the door step of District No. 5.<sup>6</sup> It reads: “SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 5 1849.”

Extensive repairs were undertaken in 2012 as a result of wood rot in the timber framing. The building was temporarily raised, and the stone foundation removed and re-laid. Pressure-treated wood piers were

<sup>4</sup> The flagpole is visible in a ca. 1928 photograph of the school, but is not visible in a 1923 photograph of the Second East School Association picnic. Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of the Secretary, February 28, 1936, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of the Second East School Association, August 12, 1936, Petersham Historical Society.

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installed under the floor joists to support the sagging floors. The rotted sill was replaced in-kind on all elevations. The plate and bracing at the west end of the north elevation was also replaced in-kind. Clapboards were replaced as needed. The roof was replaced with cedar shingles and the brick chimney removed. The ceiling was also repaired and replastered.

### Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the school property or in the general area, sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the school indicate locational criteria that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The District No. 5 School is located on a well-drained, level to moderately sloping rise in the landscape, a favorable locational characteristic. The school is, however, located more than 1,000 feet from the nearest wetlands, an unfavorable characteristic. Given the information presented above, the very small size of the property (0.03 acres), our knowledge of Native American subsistence and settlement patterns in central Massachusetts, and levels of historic landuse on the property, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the District No. 5 School property. Any ancient resources that might have been present were likely destroyed, or their integrity severely affected, when the site was developed.

A high potential exists for locating significant historic archaeological resources on the District No. 5 School property. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may help to locate the structural evidence from the district's second schoolhouse, which was also located on the property. The second schoolhouse was moved off the property and converted to a residence after 1849. Similar research might also locate evidence of barns, stables, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells). Similar evidence of outlying structures and features may also exist with the extant school building. Electricity, water, and sewers were never installed in the school.

### DATA SHEET

Name	Date	Materials	Status	Type
District No. 5 School	1849	wood	C	B
Slab Steps	ca. 1963	granite	C	ST
Stone Wall (2)	19 <sup>th</sup> century	stone	C	ST
Doorstep	1937	stone	C	O

Totals 1 contributing building, 2 contributing structures, 1 contributing object

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## 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.)

- 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



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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
1849-1966  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
1849 (construction)  
1907 (purchased by former students)  
1923 (Second East School Association formed)  
1941 (ownership transferred to Petersham Historical Society)

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**  
Charles Gates  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The District No. 5 School, also known as the Second East School, Petersham, MA, retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets National Register Criteria A and C with a local level of significance. Remarkably well-preserved, and one of two extant one-room schoolhouses in Petersham, the District No. 5 Schoolhouse meets Criterion A for its association with the district system of education, beginning with its construction in 1849 through its closure in 1888. The school also meets Criterion A for its subsequent association with the Second East School Association, beginning in 1907. The Second East School Association made preservation of the building in its 19<sup>th</sup>-century form a priority, and, beginning in 1923, brought the community together with alumni reunions. The school meets Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a wood-frame, gable-end, Greek Revival-style, one-room district school building. The period of significance begins with the construction of the building in 1849, and ends 50 years prior to the present.

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

#### **Petersham Community Development**

In 1733, a six-mile-square grant was made to a group of 72 proprietors. As it came to be known, "Volunteers Town," or "Voluntown," is said to have been granted to reward veterans of Captain John White and Captain John Lovell's raids during the Wabanaki-New England War of 1722–1725. Each proprietor received a 55- to 100-acre lot along the three high ridges, and a small meadow lot in an outlying area. Present-day Main Street runs north-south along the central ridge. Settlement began in 1735, and the first meetinghouse was constructed in 1738. The population grew to at least 47 families by 1754, when the township was incorporated as Petersham.

After the Revolutionary War, Petersham began its greatest period of growth, which continued through the 1830s. As cities and mill towns in eastern Massachusetts grew, their demand for farm products was met by central Massachusetts towns such as Petersham. By 1840, 80 percent of the town was in agricultural use, and the town had reached its peak population of 1,775 residents. Small industrial operations were located in Petersham's villages, including small tanneries, flour mills, sawmills, and small factories that produced boxes, chairs, plows, tinware, and wagon boxes. The "putting out" system of work taking place in homes and workshops existed for production of palm-leaf hats, boots, and shoes. With the 1873 opening of the Springfield, Athol, & Northeastern Railroad in nearby Dana (a town that no longer exists, having been flooded as part of the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s), the focus of transportation and industry shifted away from Petersham. After 1840, population steadily declined, with farms being abandoned. As former farm fields grew in with stands of white pine, commercial logging for the manufacture of boxes provided industry from 1880 to 1910. The town became attractive for summer visitors in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but their numbers failed to lead to an increase in year-round residents. Over the last century, the population has risen very slowly to 1,234 in 2010, a number smaller than that during the Colonial period. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Petersham has retained its rural character, especially in the East Street agricultural area in which the District No. 5 School is located. The land along East Street is one of the last intact working farm landscapes in Petersham, and retains its 19<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural appearance.

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### Early Schools in Petersham

Preparation for a school was included in the town warrant soon after the incorporation of Petersham in 1754. At the second town meeting in 1755, two school articles were to be voted upon: first, "to see if the town will build a school-house" and second, "to see if the town will grant money for a school and how much." Residents voted not to act on the first option. However, it was voted that ten pounds would be raised for the use of a school.<sup>7</sup>

On May 5, 1756, a three-person committee was chosen to divide the town into districts, or squadrons. Each squadron would be responsible for building its own schoolhouse, with each squadron receiving from the town an amount of money in proportion to the number of residents within each squadron. In 1791, the thirteen squadron boundaries were formalized, and a prudential committee, consisting of one elected representative from each squadron, was created. The squadron representative's responsibilities included hiring the teacher, arranging for the teacher's board during school terms, disbursing funds, and schoolhouse maintenance. Each district constructed a one-room schoolhouse, in which the teacher was expected to teach children ranging in ages from five to eighteen years of age. School sessions were limited to only a few months a year, during seasons when children were not needed to help with farm work at home, and the length of term varied from district to district, and from year to year. This continued to be true for Petersham district schools built in the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century as well. For example, the nominated District No. 5 School, erected in 1848, held two terms of about 10-12 weeks each, winter and summer, until 1877.<sup>8</sup> In 1878, and again during the last four years the school was open (1878-1880 and 1888), District No. 5 School had three terms: April to late June or July; September to November; and December to February.<sup>9</sup>

The design of the first generation of Petersham district schools is unknown. However, it is believed that several of the second-generation schools, built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, were of wood-frame construction and square in plan, with a shallow pyramidal roof. Floors were elevated in such a way that the rear seats were higher than those in the front row, allowing the teacher an unrestricted view of all students. Windows were located on all elevations, and placed high on the walls so that students would not be distracted by passersby on the nearby road.<sup>10</sup> Constructed at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the District No. 1, District No. 2, and District No. 13 schools all apparently took this form (while No. 1 school was moved, converted to residential use, and vastly altered, No. 2 and No. 13 schools are no longer extant).<sup>11</sup> A third generation of schools was constructed during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, which reflect the influence of Greek Revival forms popular during that time. The nominated District No. 5 School was built as part of this phase of school construction in Petersham. Historic photos reveal that the forms of District No. 4 (1846, PET.88, NR pending), the nominated District No. 5 (1849), District No. 9, and District No. 13 (ca. 1867) schools were nearly identical: clapboard, gable-front buildings with corner pilasters.<sup>12</sup> (See figure 1 for the earliest known photo of District No. 5, dating to ca. 1900.) The third District No. 12 School, constructed after 1855 and before 1870, was also Greek Revival in form. The school was a gable-front building clad with clapboards, in this instance with a recessed entry. The 1848

<sup>7</sup> Mabel Cook Coolidge, *The History of Petersham, incorporated April 20, 1754: Volunteerstown or Voluntown, 1730-1733, Nichewaug, 1733-1754* (Petersham: Petersham Historical Society, Inc., 1948) 210.

<sup>8</sup> An exception to this pattern occurred in the year 1872, when all Petersham district schools held three terms: summer, fall, and winter. Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>9</sup> Second East School Registers, 1871-1879, Box: District school registers, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>10</sup> C. K. Wilder to Bessie Doves, 1914. Folder: District Schools—Reminiscences, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>11</sup> Coolidge: 211, 215, 217. Also, photographs in the collection of the Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>12</sup> Coolidge: 217. Also, photographs in the collection of the Petersham Historical Society.

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District No. 1 School (PET.19), successor to No. 1 described above, differed from its contemporaries in that it was constructed of brick and is much larger than the other schools, although it did feature pilasters at the building corners and gable-end cornice returns beneath overhanging eaves.

Of the thirteen district school buildings on their original sites, three remain standing in 2016. The 1848 District No. 1 School, mentioned above, is a two-story brick building constructed in the center of town as an elementary and high school. With the construction of a new center school in 1907, the brick school became the town office building in 1908, a use that continues to the present day. The District No. 4 and District No. 5 schools are the only single-room district schoolhouses remaining in Petersham. Located approximately a mile distant from one another on East Street, the two wood-frame buildings are representative of the ten other single-room schoolhouses once constructed in Petersham. Of the others, several still exist, but in vastly altered form—moved from their original locations, and incorporated into houses, barns, and workshops.

### District No. 5 School History

District No. 5 constructed its first schoolhouse ca. 1791 (possibly earlier) at the corner of the Barre and Hubbardston roads, east of the present school location. (It is not known what became of that building, but it is no longer extant.) The second schoolhouse for District No. 5 was constructed in 1803 on the same site as the extant, third schoolhouse. In 1803, the inhabitants of the Fifth District purchased from Abel Wilder a very small parcel of land for \$23.33 “with the privilege of going on to my land adjoining it with materials for building a schoolhouse and also of repairing the same at any time hereafter.”<sup>13</sup> Wilder’s property was part of what is represented on present-day assessors maps as parcel 416. The property on which the schoolhouse is located is represented as present-day parcel 417. Wilder’s property appears to have been unimproved since the construction of the school, as evidenced by historic maps.

In February 1848, the school committee decided against repairing the 45-year-old schoolhouse. At that same meeting, a building committee was appointed to “make a plan and estimate the cost of a new school house.”<sup>14</sup> In February of 1849, district residents, consisting of approximately 22 households,<sup>15</sup> voted to build yet another schoolhouse, to raise \$400 toward that purpose (later revised to \$350<sup>16</sup>), and to dispose of the 1803 schoolhouse.<sup>17</sup> Toward that end, the building committee was instructed to negotiate with abutter Samuel Brewer to purchase land in order to allow for “a space around the building to accommodate repairing.” Two deeds for the property were recorded in 1849: one for the school building itself and the land beneath and immediately behind it, and the other for the building and the land, as well as an additional strip of land to the southeast. The boundary for the .03-acre lot is generally considered to be the stone walls around the small schoolyard.<sup>18</sup>

Thirteen-year-old District No. 5 student Jane Brigham, who lived with her parents two houses away from the school, wrote in her diary on August 11, 1849, that “they began to move the old school house.” Miss

<sup>13</sup> Worcester County Deed Book 159, page 53, Worcester County Registry of Deeds.

<sup>14</sup> Meeting minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> District, February 1848, Handwritten manuscript, Folder: Schools – 5<sup>th</sup> District. Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>15</sup> Tax records, Town of Petersham, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>16</sup> Meeting minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> District, March 3, 1849, Handwritten Manuscript, Folder: Schools – 5<sup>th</sup> District, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>17</sup> Meeting minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> District, February 8, 1849, and February 18, 1849, Handwritten manuscript, Folder: Schools – 5<sup>th</sup> District, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>18</sup> Worcester County Deed Book 1849, page 197. Recorded Worcester County Register of Deeds March 13, 1907.

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Brigham was able to report on August 18, 1849, that the "school house [was] raised," and on November 21, 1849, that the new building was dedicated.

With all work complete, the committee was able to report the final costs:<sup>19</sup>

Land, deed, and fence	\$4.00
Settees [e.g. desks with seats]	4.33
Stove pipe, damper, wire &c	1.62
Repairing back house	4.50
Trimming door stone	1.25
Pins for clothes to hang on	.25
Building house	345.00
Total	\$360.95

The committee received \$15.25 for the old schoolhouse, which was moved and attached to the house of Ira Randall, which, according to the 1855 Woodford map, was located on the north side of East Street near the intersection of Hawes Hill Road. (It is no longer extant.)

The builder of the District No. 5 School was likely Charles Gates, who constructed the nearly identical Petersham District No. 4 School, also known as the Ledgeville School. A booklet published in 1924 for the Second East School Association, the organization dedicated to preserving the building, stated that William Gates was the builder. However, in 2015, Christine Mandel of the Petersham Historical Society reviewed census data and determined that no person by that name lived in Petersham at any time. A handwritten history of the District No. 5 School written in 1945, in the collection of the Petersham Historical Society, repeats the name William Gates, yet adds the descriptive "...the same person who built the Ledgeville School." Charles Gates is the builder of record for the Ledgeville School.<sup>20</sup>

On December 3, 1849, the winter school term began in the new District No. 5 school building, with Mr. Artemas Murdock, who was not a resident of Petersham, as teacher.<sup>21</sup> Mr. Murdock received \$43.12 for his single term at the school. The school's teachers changed from term to term; rarely did a teacher return for the next term, though he or she might come back several terms later. The majority of teachers were women, some of whom began teaching when they were only seventeen years old. Annual reports and minutes of the District No. 5 School Committee reveal that there was a distinct salary difference between the summer and winter terms, and between the salaries of male teachers and female teachers. Murdock's successor, Susan Raymond, was paid \$16.50 for the summer term in 1849. In 1863, Miss Luthera Gates received \$27.50 for the summer term, while Joseph Hagar of Phillipston was paid \$70 for teaching one term the following year.

At the time when the District No. 5 School was constructed, Petersham's population was in decline from its 1840 peak of 1,775. The school's enrollment followed a similar path. Forty-one students were enrolled in the District No. 5 School in 1854, followed by a steady decline. During the early 1870s, the attendance averaged just sixteen pupils per term,<sup>22</sup> reaching only fourteen in the summer of 1875, the last

<sup>19</sup> Meeting minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> District, June 1, 1850, Handwritten manuscript, Folder: Schools – 5<sup>th</sup> District, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>20</sup> District No. 4 Building Committee Report, February 13, 1847, Bryant Family Papers, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>21</sup> Jane Brigham, Diary, 1847-1863, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>22</sup> Second East School Registers, 1871, 1872. Folder: School District Registers, Petersham Historical Society, and Annual Reports of the School Committee of the Town of Petersham for the School Years 1869-1879.

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of the two-term years. As with other district schools, the District No. 5 School saw fewer students enrolled during the summer term than the winter one.

As Jane Brigham recorded in her diary, the school also served the community for religious gatherings, as well as for evening sessions of “ciphering” school, spelling school, singing school, dancing school, and speaking school. Miss Brigham was still attending classes at age nineteen in 1855, when she wrote that she was studying algebra, grammar, and philosophy.

### **Educational Practice in the Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

The District No. 5 School served all children residing in that district, ranging in age from four to eighteen, in a single room, with a single teacher. This inefficient method required the teacher to conduct multiple lessons at various levels to meet students’ needs, thereby ensuring that no child had the teacher’s attention for more than a small portion of the school day. Under the district system, each district was responsible for all aspects of funding and education under its purview, rather than the municipality overseeing curriculum and other issues for all its schools in a single program. The school session was brief and the district school’s funding was limited, restricting the quality of education received by the students.

In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, educational reform, led by Horace Mann, began to take hold in Massachusetts. Horace Mann, often called the Father of the Common School, became the first Secretary to the newly created Board of Education in Massachusetts on June 29, 1837. Mann traveled throughout Massachusetts and provided yearly reports on the state of education in the Commonwealth, convincing the public of the benefits of school reform and the need for common standards. Although Mann could not mandate change, his ability to persuade the public that political stability and social harmony depended on the methods promoted by the common school movement did bring about reform. Under his influence, Massachusetts became the leader in educational reform during this time.

The common school movement reforms were based in a belief in universal education, graded schools, professional standards for teachers, and centralized authority over school systems rather than separate districts. The reforms proposed a system that created separate classes of students based on their ages. Students at each age level would be taught using standardized textbooks. With the age-grading system, all students were engaged in a lesson throughout the entire classroom session. This approach would allow more efficient and effective educational content, and had the added appeal of curbing misbehavior, because the teacher’s attention was not divided among disparate teaching duties.

While Petersham remained wedded to the district school system in the 1840s and 1850s, education reforms slowly began to appear in the town. Lower grades were separated from upper grades as early as 1850 at the District No. 1 School in the center of town.<sup>23</sup> (The District No. 5 School was always ungraded, however.) By 1866, Petersham had formed a three-member school committee for the town, doing away with the district approach. In 1867, Massachusetts formally abolished the district system statewide, moving to a more equitable, municipal model for education. Gradually, a consolidated school system with graded classrooms took hold in Petersham. By 1879, the brick school at the center of town contained classrooms for the intermediate and primary grades on the first floor, and the high school grades on the upper level. District No. 5 students of high-school age generally chose to remain at their school, however, rather than travel to the town center. Petersham graduated its first high school class in 1891.

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<sup>23</sup> Coolidge: 211.

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After the abolition of the district system, the District No. 5 school was renamed the Second East School in 1870.<sup>24</sup> In 1880, no students attended the Second East School, leading the school committee to state they could no longer justify having “more than one east school”<sup>25</sup> (the other being District School No. 4, NR pending, less than a mile away). The Second East School remained closed through 1887. The school reopened for one last year in 1888, for only eight students.<sup>26</sup> Mary E. Burns, aged seventeen, was the final teacher. The building was permanently closed in 1889 and sat unused, with its furnishings intact, for the next two decades.

### Second East School Association

In 1905, amid plans for a new, consolidated, central school and high school, the town prepared to demolish or sell the Second East School. Alarmed by the possibility of demolition or relocation of the building, John B. Leamy, a former student at the school and a member of the class of 1866, approached the town about purchasing the property. Leamy and three other former students became joint trustees, and purchased the property in 1907 from the Town of Petersham for \$100.<sup>27</sup>

By 1923, Leamy and his fellow trustees had been joined by several dozen other alumni and former teachers in the new Second East School Association. John G. Joyce served as President, Walter A. Bassett served as Vice-President, John B. Leamy served as Treasurer, and Miss Mary Leamy served as Secretary. The Association’s purpose was:

to own the Building, Outhouse [no longer extant], and the Grounds and Fence, and to make such provisions for its perpetual care, keeping it in good repair and condition and was to keep the school in external appearance as it was from 1860 to 1879, and to preserve this property as a memorial to the boys and girls who attended this school during this period.<sup>28</sup>

The association met at the schoolhouse for a reunion every August on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday of the month.

At the time of the association’s first school reunion on August 15, 1923, 31 charter and honorary members were on the rolls. Many of the charter members were students together at the school during the 1860s and 1870s, including Fred and William Ball; Herbert and J. Edgar Brown; Thomas and John Joyce; Mary and John Keavany; Daniel, John, Mary, Martin, and Patrick Leamy; George Marsh; and Joseph and Ruth Harty. Honorary member Augustus Wheeler taught at the school in 1863. Honorary member Mary Bancroft Moore was a student at the school beginning in the 1850s, and taught at the school in 1864.

As members aged, activities and attendance dwindled, and the last reunion was held in 1937.<sup>29</sup> In that year, the Petersham Historical Society installed incised slab steps at all the remaining district schools. At the nominated property, the slab reads: “SCHOOL DISTRICT No.5 1849.” Shortly after the final reunion, the remaining members of the Second East School Association approached the Petersham

<sup>24</sup> Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Petersham for the School Year 1869-1870, 1870: 4.

<sup>25</sup> Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Petersham for the School Year 1880-1881, 1881: 6.

<sup>26</sup> Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Petersham for the School Year 1888-1889, 1889: 27.

<sup>27</sup> Worcester County Deed Book 2318, pages 264-266, Worcester County Registry of Deeds.

<sup>28</sup> John Joyce, *The Second East School Association* (1924): 13.

<sup>29</sup> Coolidge: 182.

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Historical Society about taking on stewardship of the schoolhouse.<sup>30</sup> The Petersham Historical Society unanimously voted to accept the Second East School on September 24, 1941.<sup>31</sup> Walter A. Bassett was the only surviving trustee of the Second East School Association when the property was transferred to the Petersham Historical Society on January 9, 1942.

### Architecture of District School No. 5

The District No. 5 School is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of a Greek Revival-style, one-room district school.

The gable-front form and Greek Revival style were the most common stylistic choices for school design at the time that the District No. 5 School was constructed. Architectural historian Talbot Hamlin has stated that Greek Revival was, in effect, the only style of the period. Hamlin wrote that there was "hardly an architect of the first water in ... nineteenth-century America who did not ... strive to design buildings of a new type, ... American buildings ... inspired by the classics."<sup>32</sup> Among the most influential educational reformers during the period in which the District No. 5 School was constructed were Horace Mann, first Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Henry Barnard, Commissioner of Public Schools in Rhode Island, and an influential author of books and journals about school design. The supplement to Mann's 1838 *First Annual Report of the Secretary of the Board of Education* presented model school designs and their furnishings. One-room schoolhouses were the most frequently built school type of the period, particularly in rural communities. Mann addressed the question of school size, appropriate furnishings and their placement in the room, and the best ventilation and heating systems, as well as the need for an open schoolyard and play area.

Mann's designs are very close to those of Barnard. In his 1848 *School Architecture; or Contributions to the Improvement of School Houses in the United States*, Barnard set forth that:

the style of the exterior should exhibit good, architectural proportion, and be calculated to inspire children and the community generally with respect to the object to which it is devoted...Every schoolhouse should be a temple, consecrated in prayer to the physical, intellectual, and moral culture of every child in the community, and be associated in every heart with the earliest and strongest impressions of truth, patriotism, and religion.<sup>33</sup>

Barnard spared no words in his opinion of district school buildings in his 1851 *Practical Illustrations of the Principles of School Architecture*. The school should have a "design in good taste and fit proportion, in place of the wretched perversions of architecture, which almost universally characterize the district school-houses of New England."<sup>34</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Minutes of the Second East School Association, August 17, 1938, Petersham Historical Society. This is the last recorded minutes.

<sup>31</sup> "Minutes of the Secretary," September 24, 1941, Petersham Historical Society.

<sup>32</sup> John Rothfork, "Transcendentalism and Henry Barnard's 'School Architecture,'" *The Journal of General Education* 29, No. 3 (Fall 1977): 178, citing Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival in America*, 1948, 24.

<sup>33</sup> Henry Barnard, *School Architecture; or Contributions to the Improvement of School Houses in the United States* (New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1848) 41.

<sup>34</sup> Barnard, *Practical Illustrations of the Principles of School Architecture* (Hartford, CT: Cast, Tiffany and Company, 1851) 23.



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Barnard's work served as patternbooks for common school reformers, and provided examples of schools in which "the great principles of school-architecture are observed."<sup>35</sup> Some features of these model schools are shared by District No. 5 School. The design of District No. 5 School contained features designed to instill order and promote health and good behavior. For example, the building was sufficiently large to accommodate students. Windows were placed at a lower height that allowed airflow across the schoolroom; prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, school windows were often placed high in the wall so that students would not be distracted by outside stimuli. The centrally located stove that could evenly heat the room replaced the open fireplaces of earlier years. Most notably, the desks in District No. 5 School are very close in form to those described and illustrated in Barnard's book:

each desk... and seat, the front of the former, constituting the back or support of the latter, which slopes 2 ½ inches in 16. The seat also inclines a little from the edge. The seats vary in height... with a shelf below for books and a groove on the back side to receive a slate... The upper surface of the desk, except 3 inches of the distant portion, slopes 1 inch in a foot, and the edge is in the same perpendicular line with the front of the seat. The level portion of the desk has a groove running along the line of the slope... so as to prevent pencils and pens from rolling off...<sup>36</sup>

Settees placed at the front of the room allowed for recitations for groups of students and provided seating for visitors (the school committee encouraged both members and parents to visit the school).

The attention to detail was demonstrated in both interior furnishings and exterior details, particularly in the gable-front form and the Greek Revival-style pilasters, cornice and returns, and entryway surround. In other ways, however, District No. 5 School reflected more traditional approaches to schoolhouse design, with its single entryway and common vestibule/cloakroom. (Barnard recommended separate entry doors for girls and boys, and separate cloakrooms, to promote modesty.)

In a letter to the Petersham Historical Society, former student C. A. Bennett, who attended the school in 1887-1888 and returned to visit some 60 years later, observed that when he was a student, the vestibule served two purposes: "...pupils used the left wing for their clothes, and right wing for wood." He added that within the classroom, "Left as you enter – seats were for Boys and the right for Girls."<sup>37</sup>

District No. 5 School is an exceptional representative of mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century manners of schoolhouse construction, reflecting a period of transition in education and the design for educational facilities.

### Present-day use of the schoolhouse

Road regrading in the 1950s required the addition, ca. 1963, of eight granite-slab steps leading from the school to the roadway.<sup>38</sup>

From 1942 and into the present day, the historical society has cared for the schoolhouse and makes it available for the education and enjoyment of the public. A 1923 sign erected by the Alumni Association was repaired and repainted in 1974. The text now reads: "Erected in 1849 Discontinued as a School in

<sup>35</sup> Barnard, *School Architecture*: 90.

<sup>36</sup> Barnard: 91.

<sup>37</sup> C. A. Bennett, letter to Petersham Historical Society, 1950.

<sup>38</sup> It has been reported, but not corroborated, that the stones were pulled from a local cellar hole. Delight Haines, MHC Form PET.72, 1989.

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1879. Purchased by former pupils who formed Second East School Association in 1923, to perpetuate this building as a memorial to their good parents, teachers and happy school days. Presented to Petersham Historical Society 1941.<sup>39</sup> A 1946 photograph (figure 4) shows a group of men and women on ladders and atop the roof, doing repairs. Building maintenance and repair has proven challenging for this small society, with limited funds and a small membership base. But though small in number, the society's persistent efforts to preserve this structure have been successful. In 2012, substantial repairs to the roof and sills were undertaken with grant funding. With these vital repairs complete, the society can continue to open the building to visitors and host educational programs.

### **Archaeological Significance**

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide important information related to the settlement and educational history of the Petersham community, and the architectural details of the Second District No. 5 School. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate the structural remains of the second schoolhouse and determine what, if any, of the structures and features associated with that school were reused when the extant third school was built. This research may identify the locations and contents of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) that were originally established to service the Second District No. 5 School, and then were reused for the third, possibly producing stratified deposits. The school was never connected to water, electricity, or sewers, so that the potential for locating privies, wells, and trash areas could be high.

The identification of structural remains associated with the second district school, combined with the identification and mapping of barns, stables, outbuildings, and occupational-related features, may also contribute important information relating to the architectural characteristics of the second district school and its associated structures. The design of the original schools in Petersham is unknown, so that any descriptive information pertaining to the Second District No. 5 School and its related structures would be of great importance.

Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the students who attended the District No. 5 School, their families, and the citizens of the district. Similar research might also contribute information relating to the methods and techniques used in 19<sup>th</sup>-century education in the Petersham locale.

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<sup>39</sup>Minutes of the Secretary, April 30, 1974, Petersham Historical Society.

District No. 5 School  
Name of Property

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County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Petersham Historical Society Collections:

- Bryant Family Papers
- District Schools – Photographs
- District Schools – Registers

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District Schools – Taxes  
Town of Petersham – Tax records

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** MHC PET.72

District No. 5 School  
Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.48515 | Longitude: -72.13319 |
| 2. Latitude:          | Longitude:           |
| 3. Latitude:          | Longitude:           |
| 4. Latitude:          | Longitude:           |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 735647 | Northing: 4707621 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

The property is identified as parcel 417 on the Town of Petersham Assessor's map. Parcel 417 was originally part of surrounding parcel 416, an unimproved lot in private ownership.

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

The boundaries represent the building footprint and a small buffer around it to allow for "space around the building to accommodate repairing," as specified in the 1849 deed.

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Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Stacy E. Spies, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director

organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard

city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125

e-mail betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

telephone: 617-727-8470

date: May, 2016

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

District No. 5 School  
Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts  
County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: District No. 5 School

City or Vicinity: Petersham

County: Worcester State: Massachusetts

Photographer: Stacy E. Spies

Date Photographed: August 10, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 7. West (left) and south (right) elevations, camera facing northeast.
- 2 of 7. East (left) and north (right) elevations, camera facing southwest.
- 3 of 7. Coat room, camera facing west.
- 4 of 7. Classroom, camera facing north.
- 5 of 7. Classroom, camera facing south. Stove at far right has been removed to District No. 4 School, Petersham.
- 6 of 7. Detail, wood plaque.
- 7 of 7. Incised doorstep.

### Figures (all courtesy of Petersham Historical Society)

- 1 of 4. District No. 5 School, ca. 1900.
- 2 of 4. District No. 5 School, 1924.
- 3 of 4. Second East School Association Reunion, 1924.
- 4 of 4. Roofing Bee, 1946.

**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 100 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.

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County and State

**Figures**



**Figure 1.** District No. 5 School, ca. 1900. Courtesy of Petersham Historical Society.



**Figure 2.** District No. 5 School, ca. 1924. Courtesy of Petersham Historical Society.



District No. 5 School  
Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts  
County and State



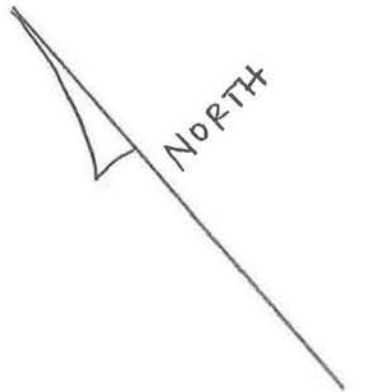
**Figure 3.** Second East School Association Reunion, 1924. Courtesy of Petersham Historical Society.



**Figure 4.** Roofing Bee, 1946. Courtesy of Petersham Historical Society.



Town of Petersham  
Tax Map  
FY-2006  
8/4/2006  
1"=1000'

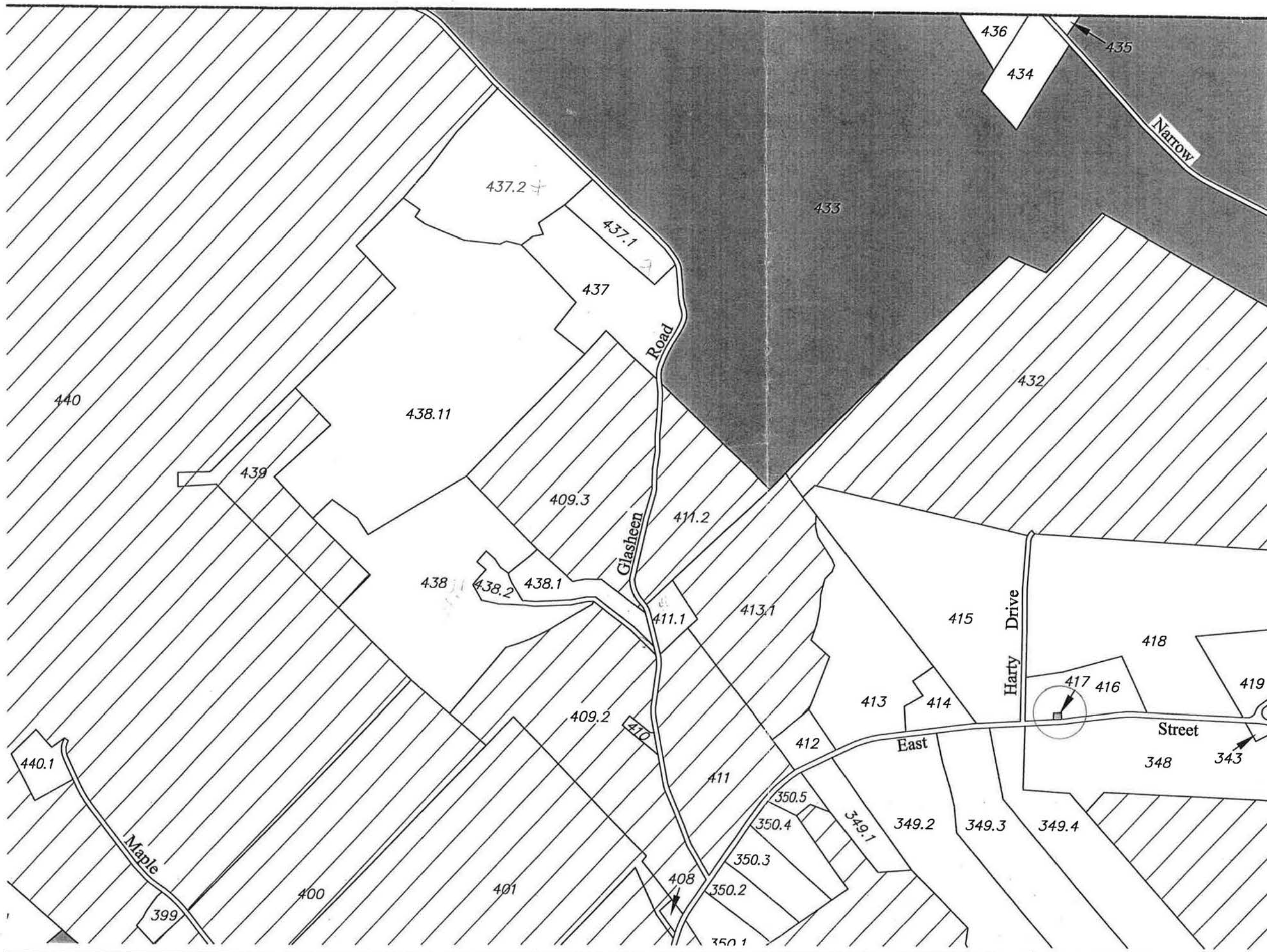


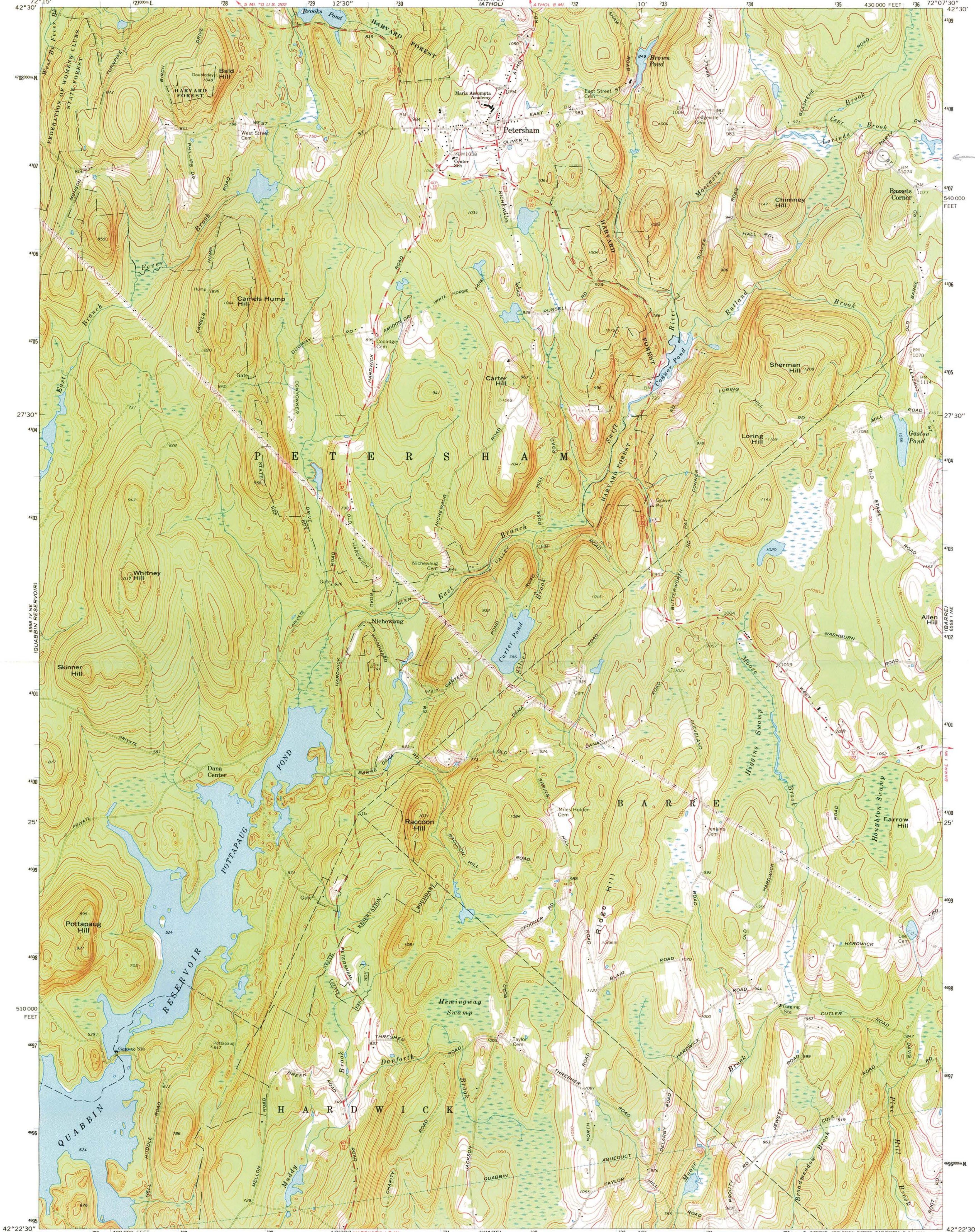
DISTRICT No. 5 SCHOOL  
WORCESTER Co.  
PETERSHAM



Sheet 3

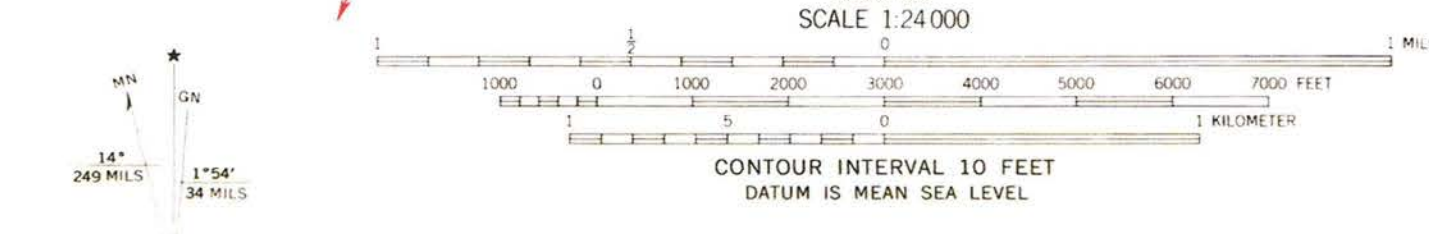
- HARVARD LAND
- TOWN LAND
- MDC LAND
- OTHER STATE LAND
- EXEMPT LAND
- CHAPTER 61 LAND





DISTRICT NO. 5  
SCHOOL  
WORCESTER CO.  
PETERSHAM, MA.  
UTM ZONE 18  
E 735647  
N 4707621

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and  
Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943-1944  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route	

PETERSHAM, MASS.  
N4222.5—W7207.5/7.5  
1969  
AMS 6568 1 N—SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

USGS  
HISTORICAL FILE  
TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION

JUL 3 1972





THE HISTORY  
OF THE WORLD IS THE  
BIOGRAPHY OF GREAT MEN

THE FOUNDATION  
OF EVERY STATE IS THE  
EDUCATION OF ITS YOUTH

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DISCONTI

PURCHASED BY  
FORMED SEP  
IN 1923  
AS







# CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE SECOND EAST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> 1923

MARY KEAVENY BARRY  
FRED E. BALL  
WALTER A. BASSETT  
JULIA BROWN BIGELOW  
WILLIAM E. BALL  
FRANK I. BROWN  
HERBERT L. BROWN  
J. EDGAR BROWN  
SEWELL C. BROWN

ELIZABETH LEAMY CROWLEY  
JOSEPH HARTY  
RUTH HARTY  
GUERNSEY HOLDEN  
ELLA BROWN JOHNSON  
JOHN G. JOYCE  
THOMAS W. JOYCE  
JOHN M. KEAVENY  
MARY C. KEAVENY  
CATHERINE M. LEAMY

DANIEL LEAMY  
JOHN B. LEAMY  
MARY A. LEAMY  
MARTIN H. LEAMY  
PATRICK LEAMY  
GEORGE MARSH  
EMMA UPTON RICE  
ELWIN C. WHEELER  
WILLIAM H. WHEELER

## HONORARY MEMBERS

MARY BANCROFT MOORE

LAURA BANCROFT

AUGUSTUS WHE

SCHOOL DISTRICT

No. 5

1849

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY District No. 5 School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/27/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/12/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000455

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 7-18-16 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.



RECEIVED 2280

JUN - 3 2016

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

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

May 24, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
National Register of Historic Places  
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:

District No. 5 School, 311 East Street, Petersham (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 properties in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Robert Clark, Petersham Historical Commission  
Nancy Allen, Petersham Board of Selectmen  
Henry Woolsey, Christine Mandel, Petersham Historical Society  
Stacy Spies, consultant  
Fraser Sinclair, Petersham Planning Board