

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FEB 21 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rockland Memorial Library
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 382 Union Street N/A not for publication
city, town Rockland N/A vicinity
state Mass code 025 county Plymouth code 023 zip code 02370

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Valerie A. Palmage 2/8/89
Signature of certifying official Date
Executive Director of Mass. Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Alanna Byrne 3/23/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: LIBRARY

EDUCATION: LIBRARY

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals/
Classical Revivalfoundation granite
walls brick, terra cotta, granite
roof slate, copper, terra cotta
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Rockland Memorial Library stands on the west side of Union Street, Rockland's main commercial thoroughfare, south of Belmont Street. The stretch of Union Street which constitutes the town's commercial center (between Water Street and North Street) is a scattered collection of commercial buildings, many of which are converted nineteenth century residential buildings or mid-twentieth century construction. Although there are other historic properties in the immediate vicinity, a cohesive district does not survive. The secondary streets surrounding the commercial center are residential in character, comprised primarily of late-nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings of moderate style.

Occupying approximately one quarter of its westward sloping lot, the building rises one story above a raised basement (fully exposed at the rear). Constructed of red brick laid in stretch bond and trimmed with buff-color terra cotta, the building was designed in a cross-shaped plan composed around a central rotunda, which is flanked by the library's two main reading rooms on the interior. Above the basement a wide terra cotta water table circumscribes the building. Terra cotta was also used for the building's heavy quoins, pilasters, and window and door surrounds. The library rises one full story to a Classical cornice of metal which includes an architrave, frieze, and modillions. The building is enclosed by a modified hipped roof interrupted by the central rotunda which is topped by a copper roof.

The facade (east elevation) is symmetrically organized and comprises a central projecting pavilion flanked by two short wings. At the first story, the pavilion possesses a large center entry reached by broad granite steps. Surrounding the entry is a Classical enframing consisting of Ionic columns and pilasters supporting a wide entablature, all materials are terra cotta. The pavilion is crowned by a wide pediment, also trimmed with the Classical cornice, above which a brick parapet is decorated with anthemion motifs. A terra cotta medallion containing the town seal is set within the pediment.

Flanking the pavilion, two three-pane windows light the basement, while the first story is lit by two tripartite double-hung windows, each with a three-pane transom and 1/1 sash.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Rockland Memorial Library
Rockland, MA

The north and south elevations are identical, each being divided into three bays by terra cotta quoins. At the basement, a central tripartite window is flanked by two smaller window openings. The first story is symmetrically arranged with a tripartite window, matching those at the facade, between two narrow windows.

The rear (west elevation) comprises a central projecting pavilion flanked by short wings. The central pavilion possesses a central recessed niche containing three narrow windows which light the book stacks. The flanking wings were originally identical, each consisting of one set of paired windows at the basement and a three-sided bay window at the first story. At the southern wing the northernmost window in the basement has been converted to a doorway.

The library's impressive interior remains intact as well. The entry vestibule (11' x 8') has marble plaques with the names of 328 Rockland residents who served as soldiers and sailors in the Civil War. The rotunda is 24' in diameter and contains eight marble columns of light-colored Sienna marble. Flanking the rotunda are reading rooms with classical mantelpieces of oak. To the rear of the building a pair of service rooms are linked by a fireproof stack area.

Continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Rockland Memorial Library
Rockland, MA

Archeological Statement

No prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the library parcel or in the town of Rockland. The lack of sites likely results from underreporting, more sites probably exist. In general, however, the potential for prehistoric sites seems low as a result of the small size of the parcel, impacts from early 20th century library construction and overall development of the area.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

~~Architecture~~

~~Education~~

Period of Significance

1903- 1938

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

McLean & Wright (Boston)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Rockland Memorial Library possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and association with the development of Rockland, previously part of Abington, as an independent town. Constructed with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, the library is one of the most significant architectural monuments in the town, retaining all of its major architectural elements on both the interior and exterior. The Rockland Memorial Library is of local significance and meets Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Rockland is a town occupying about ten square miles, located approximately twenty miles southeast of Boston. Prior to 1874, Rockland formed the east Ward of the town of Abington and was commonly known as East Abington. Settled in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the area was attractive for the shoe manufacturing industry, which first appeared in Rockland during the late eighteenth century and became the focus of the community's economy by the mid-nineteenth century.

Rockland was incorporated in 1874 as the result of a dispute over the construction of an expensive school building in Abington Center in 1871 and the belief that East Abington could develop into a more successful industrial community if separated from Abington. The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw the continued dominance of the shoe industry with fewer, but larger, manufacturers and an increase in related industries such as the Thompson Shoe Shine Factory and S. E. Packard & Sons paper box factory. Rockland's most prosperous period included the years leading up to and including World War I. The subsequent years of the Great Depression resulted in the decline of the local shoe industry.

In the 1870s and 1880s, before the construction of public library buildings became common practice, most New England towns established small lending

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Directory of Boston Architects, 1846-1970. Massachusetts Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, Cambridge, MA: 1984.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts. (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co.) 1884.

Rockland City Directories, Rockland, MA: various years.

Rockland Independant, May 1, 1903.

Rockland Independant, May 5, 1905.

Rockland Standard, May 5, 1905.

Withey, Henry C. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: 1970.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Mass. Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than .5 Acre

UTM References USGS Quad: 1:25,000 scale Weymouth, MA

A 19 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 0
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Begining at a point on the southwest corner of Union and Belmont Streets, running west approximately 219 feet, then south approximately 95 feet, then east approximately 219 feet to Union Street, then north approximately 92 feet to begining.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the historic and present property of the library.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Scott Beard, Pres. consultant With Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC
organization Mass. Historical Commission date April, 1988
street & number 80 Boylston St. telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Rockland Memorial Library
Rockland, MA

libraries in town residences or the Town Hall. The library Association of Rockland (formerly East Abington) was established in 1833; its first repository was at the house of Isaiah Jenkins Jr., 64 Union Street. The collection was kept in a red locker-type box built by cooper Charles Lane. The library remained a cooperative organization, to which members paid dues and a nominal rental fee for the use of the books, until the town took it over in 1878 in order to create a public library. By 1884, librarian Amelia Poole had charge of 5,000 volumes; this number increased to 10,006 by 1902 at which time Angela Collins was the librarian. In the 1880s the library was located in the Underwood Building, on the corner of Union and Church Streets, which also housed the town offices. In 1890 the Underwood building was destroyed by fire, those books that could be salvaged were temporarily stored in the barn of Gideon Studley further north on Union Street.

It was decided to combine a memorial for Rockland's soldiers with a public library. In 1887 the G.A.R. and the Women's Relief Corps joined with the town representatives with the goal of constructing Rockland's first public library. For over a decade money was raised by the sale of cookbooks and a library fund of \$500 was appropriated by the town to finance the collection. Funds needed to construct the library were finally obtained in 1902 after Angela Collins encouraged library trustee, T. P. Farr, to request assistance from Andrew Carnegie, who had been responsible for the construction of approximately 1,000 libraries by that time.

Several years earlier Andrew Carnegie had established and funded the Carnegie Corporation for the purpose of granting funds to towns for the construction of public libraries. As a young man Carnegie was strongly influenced by Colonel James Anderson of Allegheny, who in the 1850s opened his own library to the working boys of the town so that they might also be provided with the opportunity to learn. Carnegie later expressed his philosophy as follows: "the main consideration should be to help those who will help themselves; to provide part of the means by which those who desire to improve may do so; to give those who desire to rise the aids by which they may rise; to assist, but rarely or never do all. Neither the individual nor the race is improved by almsgiving. Those worthy of assistance, except in rare cases, seldom require assistance".

Any town requesting a grant from the Carnegie Corporation was carefully scrutinized, the amount given to a town was based on two factors: the population which is to pay the tax to carry the library and a specified

Continued

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Rockland Memorial Library
Rockland, MA

minimum revenue from the tax. The amount of the grant was intended to cover construction costs in order to produce a complete building, ready for use, with "indispensable furniture and fixture", including architect's fees. Any community accepting the grant for a library was responsible for acquiring the site and an annual maintenance fund of a least 10% of the grant amount. The Carnegie corporation sent each library committee a suggestive memorandum called "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings" [sic] which provided guidelines for constructing their library. Included in the memorandum were six building designs which had been found to be satisfactory or library needs. Further, it recommended that the building's main floor should contain the book stacks, main desk, and reading rooms, while the basement should house a lecture room, conveniences, and mechanical rooms. Architects were hired to adapt the general plans to fit the site and needs of the community and design the exterior details.

Rockland's library was constructed on land purchased from the estate of Gideon Studley who was a paper box manufacturer in Rockland. In 1902 the library trustees received a grant of \$12,500 from Carnegie which was matched by the town. Library trustees at the time were H. B. Loud, Lorenzo D. Perkins, Sarah A. Donham, T. P. Farr, J. A. Torrey, Edwin Mulready, C. A. Townsend, A. W. Perry, and Henry B. Fuller.

The architects chosen for the project were McLean and Wright of Boston. William H. McLean (1870-1942) worked in New England from about 1901 until 1938. Following his association with Albert Hayden Wright (1902-1911), McLean formed a partnership with Henry McLean which continued until 1917. After 1917, William McLean worked independently until 1938. Among the various buildings he designed are the High School in Provincetown, Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, Vermont and the Public Library in Attleboro, Massachusetts. Little is known of Albert Wright except that he practiced architecture in New England from 1900 to 1911.

The library that was constructed for Rockland is the finest architectural monument in the town. Built in 1903, the Classical Revival style building has been altered very little since its original design including its large central dome, terra cotta quoins, pilasters, columns & surrounds, and interior plan and detailing which consist of a central rotunda containing eight marble columns of light-colored Sienna marble, flanking the rotunda are reading rooms with Classical style mantelpieces of oak.

The building continues to be used as the town's public library.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Rockland Memorial Library
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 2/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/07/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/23/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/07/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000221

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/23/89 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



ROCKLAND MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Rockland, Massachusetts

PHOTOGRAPHER: Christine Scott Beard
February, 1987
ACT for Massachusetts
45 School Street
Boston, MA

VIEW: Looking west at Rockland Memorial Library
(382 Union Street)

Rockland Memorial Library
Rockland, Mass.

Photographer: Christine Scott Beard

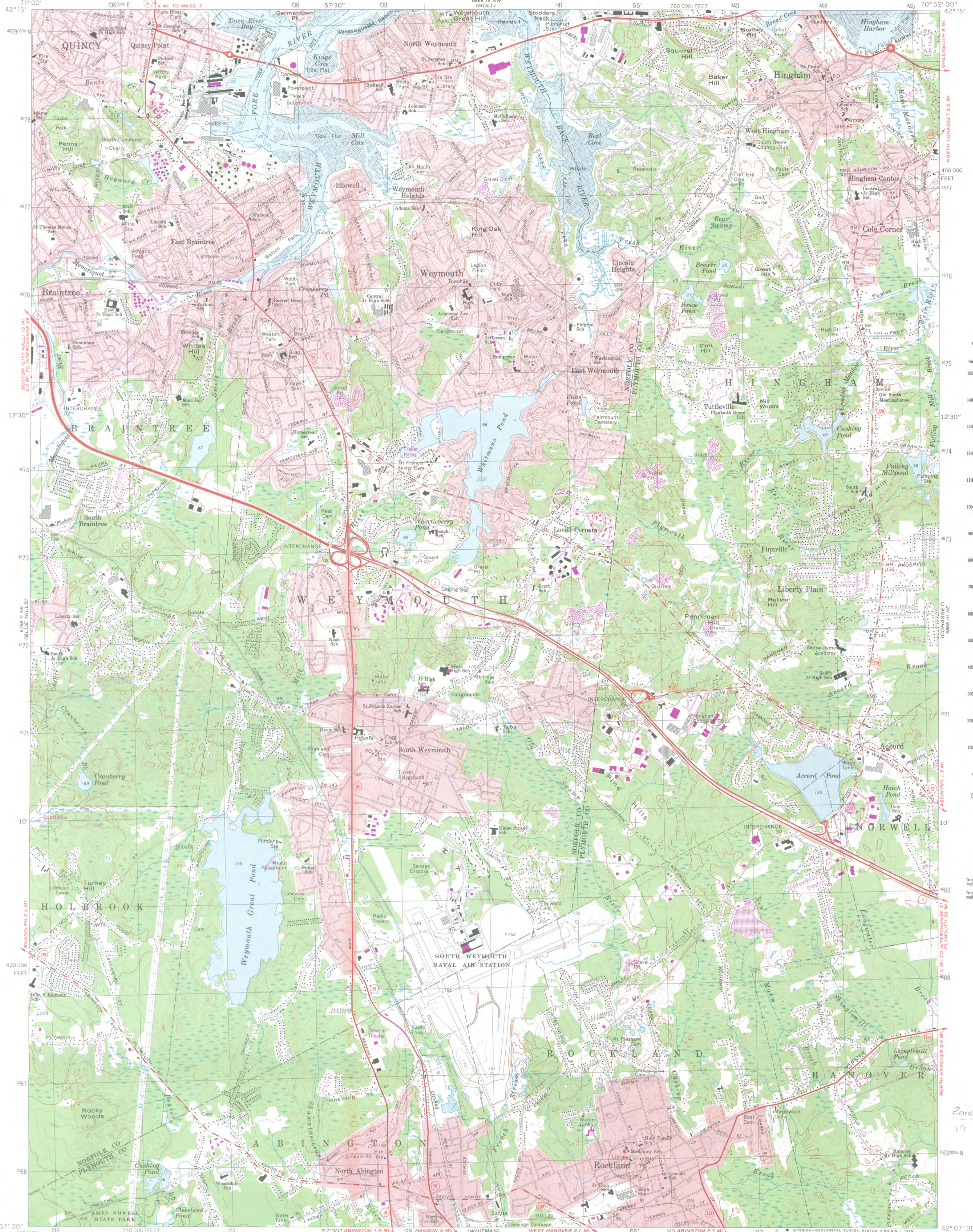
2/87

ACT for MASS

45 School St.

BOSTON, MA

View: Looking West at
Rockland Memorial
Library (382 Union St.)



CONVERSION
SCALES



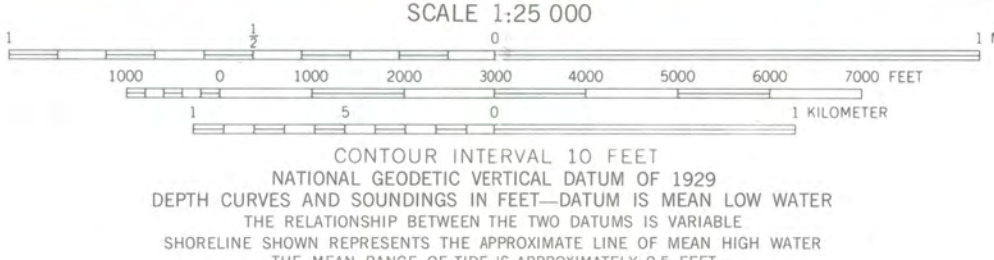
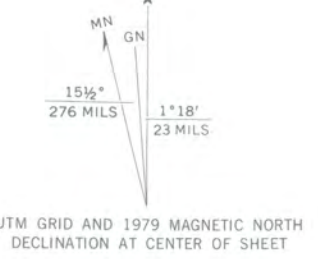
Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Zone Easting Northing
19 3452 46676

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 planetable 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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

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



NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
The Rockland Memorial Library
336 Union Street
Rockland, MA

WEYMOUTH, MASS.
N4207.5—W7052.5/7.5
1971
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6888 III NW—SERIES V814

Rockland Memorial Librar
336 Union Street
Rockland, MA



February 2, 1989

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

The Rockland High School, Rockland, MA
The Rockland Trust Company, Rockland, MA
Lower Union Street, Historic District, Rockland, MA
The Phoenix Building, Rockland, MA
The Rockland Memorial Library, Rockland, MA
The Pond Hill School, Wellfleet, 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.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:

BF/di