

56-971

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Sandy Pond School

Other names/site number: District No. 11 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: 150 Sandy Pond Road

City or town: Ayer

State: MA

County: Middlesex

Not For Publication: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

Brona Simon March 9, 2017

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Brona Simon, SHPO** Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

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 5-8-17
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

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

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> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School
SOCIAL/Clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19th CENTURY, Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE/ Granite; Walls: BRICK, WOOD/Shingle; Roof: Asphalt Shingle.

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Sandy Pond School in Ayer, MA, is a modest one-room school, constructed in 1868. The vernacular Greek Revival building is located on a small triangular lot one-quarter acre in size, located in the southern part of Ayer (formerly Groton, MA), within the intersection of Sandy Pond Road (which becomes Willow Road as it travels southeast after passing the school), Westford Road, and a discontinued fork of Westford Road now used as a parking lot. The school faces south toward Sandy Pond Road. The one-story brick building features a recessed center entry beneath a segmental-arched lintel. The entry led to girls' and boys' coatrooms, located on either side of the doorway. A wood-frame ell is attached at the northeast corner of the building.

Narrative Description

Exterior

The Sandy Pond School is a modest one-room school, constructed in 1868. The one-story brick main block features a recessed center entry that originally led to girls' and boys' coatrooms. The 25-by-30-foot, vernacular Greek Revival building is located on a small triangular lot within the intersection of Sandy Pond Road, Westford Road, and a discontinued fork of Westford Road. The school faces south toward Sandy Pond Road. (Sandy Pond Road continues southeast just after the school to become Willow

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

Road.) One-quarter acre in size, the flat lot abuts the discontinued section of Westford Road to the north, now used as paved parking, with marshland beyond. Mature maple and conifer trees are located on the school lot, north and east of the building. Two boulders (installed 1983) are located to the southeast of the building at the edge of the lot, where there is also a stop sign facing Westford Road. A railroad crossing historically known as "Willows" is located 500 feet south of the school. East of the school are warehouses constructed during the late 20th century. To the south and west are residential buildings constructed during the last quarter of the 20th century.

The Sandy Pond School rests on a rough-faced, split-granite foundation (Photograph No. 1). There is no basement. The school is constructed of brick laid in running bond, and is topped by a red asphalt-shingle roof constructed of nailed timbers. The wood cornice has gable-end returns and a moderate roof overhang. An interior brick chimney pierces the north roof peak. The flagpole was attached with brackets to the south gable peak ca. 1910. A freestanding painted wooden sign on two posts stands in front of the school entrance; installed in the late 20th century, it reads "District School #11—Historic Schoolhouse Maintained by Sandy Pond School Association." The sign is a noncontributing resource.

The three-bay, gable-front façade has a recessed center entrance beneath a segmental arch (Photograph No. 2). Two granite steps lead to the recessed entry, which is enclosed by a picket panel installed to deter vandals. On the east and west walls of the squared recess are molded four-panel entry doors leading to the interior spaces that were the girls' and boys' coathrooms. The walls of the recess are sheathed in flushboards. Flushboard patching covers the former location of a window in the south wall of the recess. The window is visible in an 1893 photograph (Figure No. 2). A stone marker with the incised letter "G" on one side and "H" on the other is located beside the stone steps. The stone was moved to this location at an unknown date, perhaps from the boundary of Groton and Harvard. Unrelated to the significance of the school, the stone is a noncontributing resource. Shuttered, 6/6, wood-sash windows are located throughout the building. A narrow window is located in the gable peak of the south elevation. The north elevation contains two windows (Photograph No. 3). The east and west elevations each contain three bays of windows; the north bay of the east elevation has been enlarged to become a doorway to the attached ell.

Ell

The one-story, wood-frame ell measures 27 feet long and twelve feet wide (Photograph No. 3), three bays by one bay. The ell was originally sheathed with vertical boards and served as a detached shed. The ell was attached to the school building ca. 1912, in order to contain a kitchen. At that time the ell was placed on the rusticated block foundation upon which it now rests.

The wood-frame ell is clad with wood shingles, and has simple cornerboards and cornice. Shuttered wood-sash windows flank the door on the ell's main (south) elevation. A small wood-frame sash window is located in the east elevation to provide ventilation for a washroom. A single wood-frame sash window is located in the north elevation. No evidence has been found to identify the location of the presumed outhouse that served the school prior to the addition of the ell.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

Interior (See Sketch Plan, Figure 1)

The school interior contains a narrow tongue-and-groove, birch and pine floor of alternating light and dark wood, installed in 1912 by the Sandy Pond School Association to replace a graduated platform floor (Photograph Nos. 4 and 5). Wainscoting constructed of flushboards, laid horizontally, is located throughout the room and capped at the height of the windowsill. The upper walls and ceiling are covered with plaster. The glass-and-metal ceiling light was installed after 1921. The window and door surrounds are unadorned wood boards.

The walls above the wainscoting and below the wood picture rail are painted black to serve as chalkboards. The building originally contained two coatrooms, one for girls and one for boys, on either side of the entrance. The coatrooms were separated from the classroom by a panelled wood door. The boys' coatroom at the southeast corner of the building is unaltered, and retains metal coathooks on the walls. The coatroom has plaster walls and flushboard wainscoting similar to that in the classroom. The partition wall separating the girls' coatroom, in the southwest corner of the building, from the classroom was removed ca. 1914. At the same time, a low stage for a piano was constructed in that corner.

A wood stove, now disconnected, is centered in the north wall. Six wood, two-student desks with cast-iron legs and wood seats with pivoting cast-iron bases are located in the classroom.¹ Six oak recitation settees are located along the east, north, and west walls of the room. The folding settees have spindle backs and cast-iron braces. A painted-wood plaque, with an incorrect construction date (i.e. 1800), is fastened above the doorway to the boys' coatroom.

The walls and ceiling in the ell are covered with tongue-and-groove, beaded-pine boards installed when the kitchen was enlarged in 1922 or 1923.² Pine planks with cut nails form the floor (Photograph No. 6). The two-leaf Dutch door was installed when the ell was attached to the school (Photograph No. 7). The wooden dry sink and the Athol Pump Co. hand pump were installed after a well was dug in 1914.³ A painted wooden shelf supported by an iron bracket and a built-in wooden storage cabinet are also located along the north wall. A restroom located in the east end of the ell was installed during the second half of the 20th century.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the grounds of the Sandy Pond School, sites may be present. Ten ancient sites and nine historic archaeological sites are located in the general area (within one mile). Most potential ancient sites are located on upland terraces bordering streamside, riverine, pondside, and other wetland areas. Historic archaeological sites are often located along roadside and streamside locations. Environmental characteristics of the property indicate the presence of several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of ancient sites. The property includes an excessively drained, level to moderately sloping upland terrace, within 1,000 feet of Bennetts Brook, which generally flows southeasterly about 1,000 feet south of the school. Swamplands are also located within 1,000 feet to the north and west of the nominated property.

¹ It cannot be ascertained at this time whether the desks are original to the school.

² Receipt from Levi Phelps to Wm. Landry, September 6, 1922, and Receipt from Levi Phelps to Sandy Pond School Association September 29, 1922, Box 11, Sandy Pond School Collection, Local History Room, Ayer Public Library.

³ Undated newspaper clippings, Box 11, Sandy Pond School Collection, Local History Room, Ayer Public Library.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

The freshwater wetlands and adjacent uplands would have provided its ancient inhabitants with a wide variety of flora and fauna for their subsistence and settlement activities.

Given the above information, the size of the nominated property (less than one acre), available space, our knowledge of Native American subsistence and settlement activities in the Ayer region, and historic landuse, a moderate potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Sandy Pond School property. Structural evidence may survive for outbuildings no longer extant but potentially located on the property as archaeological resources. Potential outbuildings originally located on the property may include evidence of barns, stables, storage sheds, woodsheds, and other structures. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may identify the presence of a potential outhouse associated with the school. A restroom, located in the east end of the ell, was not installed until the second half of the 20th century, indicating a potential privy as the only source for bathroom facilities up to that point. Detailed archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also survive in the area immediately surrounding the school. Archaeological evidence of the school's construction may also survive, including builder's trenches, as well as trash deposits and evidence of renovations to the school building.

The existing school building appears to be the fourth building (pre-1806, 1806, 1848-1851, and 1868) to serve District No. 11. All four buildings were located on the nominated property, indicating the potential for surviving structural evidence of those buildings. A high potential would also exist for structural evidence associated with potential barns, stables, and other outbuildings associated with each of the potential earlier schools located on the property. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with the earlier potential school sites may also survive. Features associated with the school's construction may also exist.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION

Period of Significance
1868-1966

Significant Dates
1868 (construction)
1906 (closure of Sandy Pond School)
1908 (purchase by Sandy Pond School Association)
1912 (date ell attached)

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

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 Sandy Pond School retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets Criteria A and C with a local level of significance. Remarkably well preserved, the school is one of two extant one-room schools (the other is District 7 School [Chicopee School], NRIND 2007) in the former Groton Township, and the only one remaining in the town of Ayer. The school meets Criterion A for its association with the district system of education, beginning with its construction in 1868, through its closure in 1906. The Sandy Pond School is notable for its late construction date as a one-room, mixed-level school, authorized and paid for by common school proponents in Groton, including Secretary of Education for Massachusetts and Groton School Committee chairman George Boutwell. Sandy Pond School was built amid vigorous disagreement over creation of a high school in Groton that led to the secession of Ayer from Groton just 26 months after Sandy Pond School was constructed. The school also meets Criterion A for its subsequent association with the Sandy Pond School Association, beginning in 1908. The Sandy Pond School Association made preservation of the building in its 19th-century form a priority, and brought together the community with alumni reunions from 1908 to 1957. The building meets Criterion C as an example of a Greek Revival-style one-room school, and as a representative example of design features promoted as part of the common school movement literature of the mid 19th century. The period of significance begins with the construction of the building and ends 50 years prior to the date of nomination, 1966.

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

Groton and Ayer History

Groton was incorporated in 1655. A southern portion of Groton separated in 1871 to form the town of Ayer. The Sandy Pond School is located within the portion that became Ayer. Education became a priority for Groton residents during the Colonial period. In 1681, residents instructed the selectmen to "...take care that there be a school, or college, of learning of [sic] children the English tongue to read." By 1716, school was being kept in a former meetinghouse northwest of the current Groton town center. In 1741 or 1742, the town voted to have school taught by a single teacher, moving to as many as five or seven separate locations on a serial basis (called a "moving school").⁴

During the Federal period (1775-1830), Groton was sparsely populated, growing slowly from 1,840 persons in 1790 to 1,925 persons in 1830. The lack of rivers for waterpower or transportation kept development to small farms and a half-dozen sawmills or grist mills. During this period, fewer than a dozen farms were located in the southern portion of Groton that later became Ayer. Small residential settlements were located near Washington and Park streets in present-day downtown Ayer and near the intersection of Sandy Pond Road (also known as the Lunenburg and Littleton Highway, and, later, as the Great County Road), Westford Road, and Willow Road (also known as Littleton Road or Pingryville Road).

⁴ Johnson, Sanford, and Betsy Friedberg, District 7 School (Chicopee Road School), Groton, MA. National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2005.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

Education for Sandy Pond-area students began as early as 1790, when students were taught at the house of Matthias Farnsworth.⁵ In 1805, Groton was divided geographically into twelve school districts. District No. 11 voted the following year to construct a “new” school,⁶ depicted at the current location of the Sandy Pond School on an 1826 map.⁷ The number of residents in District No. 11 was always small, and the district accepted paying students from beyond district boundaries in order to supplement the student population. The crossroads community of Pingryville, on the Littleton side of Willows Junction, sent students for many years to the Sandy Pond School instead of to the distant district schools in Littleton. Misses Mary A. Pingrey and Eunice Pingry (records show both spellings) would also teach at Sandy Pond School. Children from the nearby Harvard Shaker Village North Family were sent to the Sandy Pond School from 1857 to 1864.⁸ It also appears that the Sandy Pond School was always open to both black and white children; photographs, school census data, and federal census data demonstrate that the Hazzard and Veresto children attended school alongside their white neighbors, the Pierce and Donlan families, among others.⁹

The Early Industrial period (1830-1870) marked a period of explosive growth for Groton, and the culmination of tensions between the town of Groton and its upstart satellite, Groton Junction. In the 1830s, Groton was primarily an agricultural community with a few small manufacturing establishments. “Virtually uncultivated”¹⁰ in 1830, the area that would become Groton Junction became a thriving commercial and industrial center with the arrival of four regional railroad lines: Fitchburg (1845); Worcester and Nashua (1848); Stony Brook (1848); and the Peterborough and Shirley (1848) railroads. Between 1830 and 1870, the population of Groton increased by 86 percent, largely as a result of the development of Groton Junction. Between 1850 and 1870 the population grew 42 percent, from 2,515 to 3,584 persons. Many of the new residents were Irish immigrants working in the new factories in Groton Junction, which produced plows and agricultural implements. This growth caused the Groton school system to balloon to 16 districts by 1854, much to the dismay of Groton School Committee Chairman George Boutwell.¹¹ Boutwell, by that time, had been a member of the State Board of Education for two years, and would be elected Secretary to the Board of Education in the following year. An increase in school districts was in opposition to the common school reform goals of school consolidation, graded school levels, and the creation of a centralized authority over education in Massachusetts, promoted by Boutwell and the Groton School Committee.

⁵ Caleb Butler, *History of the Town of Groton: Including Pepperell and Shirley* (Boston: T. R. Marvin, 1848), 222.

⁶ Minutes of District Committee, August 25, 1806, Groton, MA, school records, District No. 11, 1806-1869, Vol. 3, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

⁷ Samuel Abbott Green, *Groton Historical Series: A Collection of Papers Relating to the History of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts*, Vol. 2 (Groton, MA: 1877-1899), 59, citing 1826 Report for proposed canal in Sandy Pond vicinity, and Caleb Butler, *A Map of the Town of Groton, Middlesex County, Mass.: from a survey made in the years 1828 & 1829*, Pendleton's Lithography, 1831.

⁸ Minutes of District Committee, Groton, Massachusetts school records, District No. 11, 1806-1869, Vol. 3.

⁹ Minutes of District Committee, Groton, Massachusetts school records, District No. 11, 1806-1869, Vol. 3; undated, and ca. 1893 photographs of teacher and school children, Collection of Sandy Pond School Association; United States Census 1860-1910.

¹⁰ Michael B. Katz, *The Irony of Early School Reform: Educational Innovation in Mid-Nineteenth Century Massachusetts*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1968), 62-63.

¹¹ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1854*.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

Educational Practice in the Mid 19th Century

The dramatic changes happening in Groton beginning in the 1830s were familiar throughout Massachusetts. The common school movement of education reform believed that universal education, age-graded schools, professional standards for teachers, and central authority over school systems were the way to manage the significant social and industrial changes happening during this period. Prior to this, education had been tightly controlled at the local level through the district system. District schools were often small, one-room schools, that served all children residing in that district, ranging in age from four to 18. 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.

The common school movement 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. The approach had the added appeal of curbing misbehavior because the teacher's attention was not divided among disparate teaching duties.

Horace Mann, often called the Father of the Common School, became secretary to the newly created Board of Education in Massachusetts in 1837. Mann traveled throughout Massachusetts and provided yearly reports on the state of education in Massachusetts, convincing the public of the benefits of school reform. 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.

George Boutwell had begun his political career in 1839 with election to the Groton School Committee, on which he would serve as an intermittent member over the next thirty years (1839, 1854-1855, 1857, 1859-1863, and 1869-1870). Boutwell rose through the Massachusetts legislature to become governor of Massachusetts, a United States representative and senator, and United States secretary of the treasury, among other significant posts, but was perhaps most tested by his local constituency during his service as secretary of the Board of Education of Massachusetts from 1855-1861. After having been a member of the Massachusetts Board of Education for two years, Boutwell was elected in 1855 as the third secretary of the Board, following Horace Mann and Barnas Sears. Boutwell reflected that in spite of the great progress made by Mann and Sears, "[o]ne obnoxious relic of the ancient ways remained – the district system." Calling districts "little nurseries of selfishness and intrigue,"¹² Boutwell vigorously fought to abolish them by the end of his term in 1861.

As early as 1842, the Groton School Committee had begun recommending the creation of leveled union, i.e. consolidated, schools in order to offer "younger scholars... more direct and efficient instruction; while the older scholars in the *Union* [ital. theirs] School, would enjoy superior advantages."¹³ Calls for a high school began during the late 1840s but were not successful until 1860, when a public high school was opened in the Groton town hall. A purpose-built high school was completed in 1870. The battle over the high school became the focal point of disagreement between Groton Junction and Groton proper. "[T]he

¹² George Seward Boutwell, *Reminiscences of Sixty Years in Public Affairs*. Vol. 1 (New York: McClure and Phillips and Co., 1902), 257.

¹³ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1841-1842*, 9.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

struggle illustrated, first, the tensions between the newly developing industrial and the old agricultural section of the town. Second, it revealed the magnitude of the resistance to the establishment of a town high school, which would eventually eliminate the power and autonomy of the districts."¹⁴ The embittered battle over the high school precipitated the separation of Ayer from Groton that was finalized on February 14, 1871. Groton school districts 11 and 12 (i.e., Sandy Pond and Groton Junction) became part of Ayer in the separation. District School 12 (AYE.131) is located on Shirley Street, and is currently used as a child care center by St. Mary Catholic Church, located next door. The large two-story, T-plan, wood-frame building has been heavily altered.

1868: Construction of Sandy Pond School

By the 1860s, the strenuous efforts of George Boutwell and the Groton school committee over nearly two decades to move all students to leveled union schools had been largely successful, with the exception of one remaining district school. Amid the battle over the high school, the single-room, mixed-level Sandy Pond School was constructed in 1868 to serve Groton School District No. 11.¹⁵

By the time of the Civil War, several Groton schoolhouses were in poor repair, and the School Committee assured that repairs and replacement, if need be, would occur with the reduction of wartime hardships. In 1863, the committee reported that the schools "...are cold, unsightly and inconvenient. In times like the present we would not press any measure involving expense unless compelled by necessity to do so."¹⁶ The following year, the school committee reported that District No. 11 "requires a school room larger than their present one..."¹⁷ and the existing building is "...hardly capable of being very well fitted for [its] purpose, without being nearly or quite rebuilt."¹⁸ In 1865 the committee noted that for the beleaguered teacher of the sixteen summer-term students at District No. 11, "the seats were crowded, and there was consequently much unavoidable noise and confusion, as classes moved to and from their recitations."¹⁹ Their concerns continued into the following year: "the school house is very poor, and the furniture of the house belongs to a by-gone age."²⁰ In 1867, the committee entreated:

[s]everal of the schoolhouses are totally unfit for the purposes which they are set apart, and not one comes up to the idea of a modern school house. With their uncomfortable and clumsily built benches; defaced and broken walls; destitute of all proper means of ventilation; they have served to establish the fact, that longevity and intellectual development can be attained in defiance of the laws of health... There can be no doubt but that an imperative duty rests upon the town, either to give new school houses to the districts, or to remodel and modernize the old ones.²¹

¹⁴ Katz, 73.

¹⁵The existing building appears to be the fourth school building to serve District No. 11: pre-1806 (in 1806, the district prudential committee voted to sell the "old" school and construct a new one); the 1806 schoolhouse that was "destroyed by fire early in the winter" of 1848 in *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for Year 1847-1848*); and a third school, constructed between 1848 and 1851. *Minutes of District Committee, 25 August 1806 and 5 March 1851, Groton, Massachusetts school records, District No. 11, 1806-1869, Vol. 3*. According to the earliest map available, there has been a school at this location since at least 1828. Caleb Butler, surveyor, "A map of the town of Groton, Middlesex County, Mass.: From a survey made in the years 1828 & 1829." (Pendleton's Lithography, 1831.)

¹⁶ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1862-63*, 12.

¹⁷ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1863-64*, 8.

¹⁸ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1864-65*, 12.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 8.

²⁰ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1865-66*, 7.

²¹ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1866-67*, 8-9.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

And again, in 1868,

[W]e have hardly a building worthy of the name of school-house within the limits of the town; we should have no occasion to call attention to buildings in which the schools of the town are held as being no more poorly ventilated than well-regulated stables – less attractive and slightly less than [the] barns upon our well cultivated farms... They would be remedied... by razing these relics... to the ground, and in their places putting new buildings more in accordance with the progress of science and civilization... Those [schools] in Districts 11, 10, 13, 5 and 8 are scarcely inhabitable.²²

The selectmen took action in 1868. After a short summer term, the old school was removed.²³ The new school was completed and “furnished throughout with furniture of the most approved pattern”²⁴ by December 1868.²⁵ In 1869, payments of \$1,357.56 were disbursed for the school construction:

Asher Jewett	Teaming brick for D11	44.00
Levi S. Brigham	Labor and cash paid for labor on schoolhouse D11	200.05
Francis Swan	mason work on schoolhouse D11	181.93
J.T. Lawrance [sic]	brick for schoolhouse D11	103.00
Levi W. Phelps	lumber for schoolhouse D11	192.23
H.O. Russell	painting schoolhouse and shed in D11	29.25
W.G. Shattuck	furniture schoolhouse D11	141.37
John F. Robbins	lime, lead, nails, screws schoolhouse D11	55.09
Wheeler & Brown	lime, nails, hinges and screws schoolhouse D11	11.63
George W. Lewis	labor and stock for Schoolhouse 11	248.39
Wm. Campbell	stoves, pipes, etc. for schoolhouses 2 and 11	31.48
David Reed	Underpinning steps, etc. schoolhouse 11	29.10
Benjamin Hazen	Carrying Lewis to Schoolhouse No. 11	3.92
Baldwin & Co.	lumber for school house and shed in Dist. No. 11	48.44
M.H. Shattuck	paints, oils, & hardware for school house No. 11	37.48 ²⁶

No records have been discovered that provide information about the date or manner of construction for the ell or the presumed outhouse at the Sandy Pond School. However, the ell is similar in size and design to the Groton District No. 2 School (Moors School) ell²⁷ and the Groton District 7 School outbuilding.

Available records do not indicate who designed the Sandy Pond School. There are, however, three possible candidates. Brick mason Francis Swan may have undertaken the design as part of his services for the school. Local carpenter George W. Wright was paid \$5.00 by the town of Groton for a “plan of a school house,” according to the town report for the year ending March 1870. The report does not indicate for which school this work was completed. A third candidate is former Groton school committee member Samuel W. Rowe. Rowe was paid \$19.00 in 1868 for “drawing plans, contracts, etc.” for the District No. 12 School.

²² *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1867-68*, 8-9.

²³ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1868-69*, 23.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 11.

²⁵ *Minutes of District Committee, 3 March 1869, Groton, Massachusetts school records, District No. 11, 1806-1869, Vol. 3.*

²⁶ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1868-69*, 13, and *Annual Report of the Town of Groton for 1872*, 18.

²⁷ Edward Adams Richardson, *Moors School at old district No. 2, Groton, Massachusetts: the story of a district school* (Ayer, MA: H. S. Turner, printer, 1911), frontispiece. MHC GRO.45, demolished.

Sandy Pond School

Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts

County and State

Hiring teachers for the new school continued to be difficult. As reported by the school committee, “[b]eing the only mixed school in town and outside the village, competent and efficient teachers are quite reluctant to remain for a series of terms, yet, thanks to the parents of the District for their support we almost always have successful schools.”²⁸ Teachers at the Sandy Pond School did not necessarily work all three terms in a year. After 1870, efforts were made to hire teachers to stay on for all three terms. Teachers at Sandy Pond School included: Nellie F. Knowlton (1868); Lucy C. Pierce (1869); Sadie Therese (S. T.) Tuten (1870-1872; she then went on to teach at other Ayer schools); Mary E. Adams (1872); E. Emma Grover (1872-1873); S. Annie Williams (1872-1873); [M.] Edna Converse (1873-1874); M. A. Sweatt (1874; she taught in Ayer schools until 1880); Mary Sherwin (1875-1878); Lyra Brigham (1875; she went on to teach at Ayer Primary School 1878-1879); Florence B. (Vermille) King (1879-1890); Ida M. Allen (1881-1882); Annie Giddings (1880-1881); Emma F. Parker (1881); Carrie W. Taft (1882-1884); Eliza Fuzzard (1884-1886); Elizabeth (Lizzie) McGuane (1887-1891; she was a graduate of Ayer High School in 1886); Flora M. Stuart (1888); Mary Nason (1892); Grace A. Knowlton (1892-1893); Laura Leavitt (1893-1895; she was an assistant at Ayer High School beginning in 1900); Delia A. Doane (1892-1898); Louisa Coote (1895-1900; she was a graduate of Ayer High School in 1894); Eunice E. Pingry (1900-1901); Martha C. Toher (1902-1903); Margaret Wheelan (1904-1905); and, Caroline Downey (1904-1906).

In spite of the battle that had led to the division, within five years of seceding from Groton, Ayer too had established a levelled school system consisting of one high school, two grammar schools, one intermediate school, and three primary schools. Sandy Pond School remained a mixed school, with one concession to the leveled system: students grade six and above would travel to downtown Ayer to the primary and intermediate schools. The District No. 11 name was dropped shortly after the separation of Ayer. The school has been called the Sandy Pond School since that time.

In following years, the Ayer School Committee consistently recommended that the Sandy Pond School be closed, and students transported to downtown Ayer via the railroad stop at nearby Willows Junction. Parents of young students opposed the necessary early departure on the railroad and the long absences from home, as students traveling by train were beholden to the train schedule, “leaving home soon after seven in the morning and returning by train after six at night.”²⁹ In spite of their mixed-grade arrangement, Sandy Pond students were successful scholars, as reported by the School Committee in its Annual Report for 1875: “The number of scholars in the mixed school is small, but they are based on the gradation of the [other schools] and are divided into primary, intermediate, and grammar classes. That the scholars have equal advantages here for fitting themselves for the high school, was shown by the annual examination for admission to [the high] school, when three presented themselves, and were found to be fully qualified.”³⁰

In 1906, the Lowell and Fitchburg Street Railway constructed a trolley line from North Chelmsford to downtown Ayer along Sandy Pond Road. The arrival of the trolley provided the School Committee with a solution. Beginning that year, Sandy Pond students were transported via trolley to schools in downtown Ayer, and the school was closed.

²⁸ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton for 1872-1873*, 15.

²⁹ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Ayer for 1904-05*.

³⁰ *Report of the School Committee of the Town of Ayer for 1875*, 9.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

1908-Present: Sandy Pond School Association

The Sandy Pond community responded rapidly to the school's shutdown, and work to re-open the school as a space for reunions and entertainment began within two years of the closure. The first annual Sandy Pond School reunion took place on June 27, 1908. A newspaper article noted that, "This old school has not been in use since the electric car line was built... consequently, the building is somewhat out of repair..."³¹ A few months later, on November 2, 1908, the newly formed "District No. 11 Association" paid F. S. Pingry \$7.90 for screws, hooks, nails, cement, and 298 feet of boards.³²

The town of Ayer sold the Sandy Pond School to the Trustees of the Sandy Pond School Association for \$1.00 with deed restrictions on December 22, 1908. Trustees Oliver K. Pierce, Daniel W. Fletcher, Patrick Donlon, Frank S. Pierce (an Ayer selectman at the time), and Frank S. Pingry all had a connection with the school as neighbors, and possibly as former students or parents of students. Their names appear near the school on 19th-century maps, as well as on expenses paid through the years for upkeep and supplies for the school. As outlined in the deed, the building could only be used for the following purposes:

To keep and maintain said premises in good condition for the uses and purposes of said Association and for a meeting place for social and literary entertainments for the members therein;

To furnish a location for the reunions of pupils who at any time have attended said Sandy Pond schoolhouse and their teachers;

To furnish a meeting place where the residents of the Sandy Pond District, so called, of said Ayer may discuss public affairs or improvements relating particularly to the welfare of said District;

To keep and maintain said premises solely for public purposes of said Association and not to use or allow the same to be used for meetings of any kind to which an admission fee is charged nor in any other way for the purpose of private gain.³³

The third annual reunion on June 25, 1910, brought 100 people to the schoolhouse for a celebration. Plans for improving the building were outlined by "Mr. Donlon, ...an enthusiastic worker for the association." These included "...the conversion of the shed into a well-appointed kitchen, repairs to the walls and ceilings, the laying of a new hardwood floor and the erection of a flag pole."³⁴ At Mr. Donlon's suggestion, a subscription list was opened to raise necessary funds, subscriptions being limited to one dollar per person, although several people gave five dollars each and "Mrs. Pingry" gave nine dollars.³⁵ Among these subscribers were former teachers S. T. Tuten and Lucy S. Richardson (nee Pierce).³⁶

Two years later, the improvements were under way. The shed that had stood at the eastern edge of the lot was moved and attached to the school as an ell, and a rough kitchen was created in that part of the building during July and August of 1912. Newspaper reports stated the "building [is] in 'spic and span' condition. The new birch floor ... was a splendid improvement to the room. The old platforms have been removed, making more floor space. The walls with the restful pale green tint and the freshly whitened

³¹ Undated newspaper clippings, Box 11, Sandy Pond School Collection, Local History Room, Ayer Public Library.

³² Ibid.

³³ Middlesex County Deed Book 3413, page 431.

³⁴ June 25, 1910, newspaper clippings, Box 11, Sandy Pond School Collection, Ayer Public Library.

³⁵ Undated newspaper clippings, Box 11, Sandy Pond School Collection.

³⁶ Membership roll, Box 11, Sandy Pond School Collection, Local History Room, Ayer Public Library.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

ceiling make the room attractive and cozy.³⁷ Evening dances at the annual reunions were well attended, and a platform for a piano was added in the southwest corner of the schoolroom.

Class reunions continued until 1956 or 1957.³⁸ By the second half of the 20th century, many of the original students were no longer alive. As a result, the nature of the association changed, with greater emphasis on community events such as hosting art shows and providing tours to school groups. In recent decades, the goal of the Sandy Pond School Association, incorporated in 1956, has evolved into its current mission to preserve and interpret the history of the Sandy Pond School and its role in Ayer history.

Architecture of Sandy Pond School

The Sandy Pond School meets National Register Criterion C as an example of a Greek Revival-style one-room school, and as a representative example of design features promoted as part of the common school movement literature of the mid 19th century.

Greek Revival was the likely stylistic choice for school design at the time the Sandy Pond School was constructed. 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."³⁹ Among the most influential educational reformers during the period leading up to the Sandy Pond School's construction were Horace Mann and Henry Barnard, Commissioner of Public Schools in Rhode Island and Connecticut 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. Mann's designs are very similar 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.⁴⁰

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."⁴¹

³⁷ Undated newspaper clippings, Box 11, Sandy Pond School Collection.

³⁸ Verbal communication, Randy Boutelle. October 28, 2015.

³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ Barnard, *Practical Illustrations of the Principles of School Architecture* (Hartford, Conn.: Cast, Tiffany and Company, 1851), 23.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

Barnard's works served as patternbooks for common school reformers, and provided examples of schools in which "the great principles of school-architecture are observed."⁴² Features of these model schools are shared by the Sandy Pond School. The design of the Sandy Pond School contained features intended to instill order and promote health and good behavior. For example, the building was sufficiently large to accommodate the number of students it would contain. Formal rows of pivoting seats replaced the hard plank desks and benches of previous years that stifled healthy movement. Settees placed around the perimeter of the room allowed for recitations for groups of students. Windows were placed at a height that allowed airflow across the school room; prior to the 19th 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. Separate entry doors for girls and boys promoted modesty. (See historic photos, figures 2 and 3.)

The design of the Sandy Pond School is consistent with contemporary district schools in the immediate area of Groton and Ayer. Brick appears to have been the preferred material for school construction in the area. Groton District Schools Nos. 3, 7, 10, and 12 are all of brick construction, as are Pepperell District Schools Nos. 3 and 5 and Carlisle North District School.⁴³ The recessed entry is a design feature not uncommon to the area. Groton District No. 2 School (Moors School, GRO.45) was constructed ca. 1839, with a square plan and pyramidal roof typical of the period. The three-by-three-bay, square-plan school was altered ca. 1857 with the creation of a front-gabled roof and recessed center entrance that led to separate doors for girls and boys. The 1828 brick Carlisle North District School (CAR.7) also featured a recessed center entrance that led to separate doors for girls and boys. Pepperell District No. 5 School (PEP.321, now altered, also appears to have featured a recessed entry. The 1833 Groton District 7 School was altered to incorporate a recessed entrance of sorts: a hipped-roof, wood-frame extension was constructed at the main (west) elevation to create a recessed entrance and separate doors leading to the girls' and boys' coatrooms (GRO.190, NR 2008).

Sandy Pond School today

In 1983, the portion of Westford Road west of the school was discontinued and turned into a parking area; granite boulders and a guardrail installed at that time offered some protection at the intersection where the school is located.

More than 100 years after the Sandy Pond School Association was formed, the organization continues in its care of the school, working toward ensuring its preservation and structural stability. Over the last decades, the building has been opened infrequently for tours and school groups. Although the organization is now very small in numbers, the association has recently become more active, striving to become more visible within the community and to demonstrate its value as a historical and cultural resource. Work is under way to commission a conditions assessment that will guide the preservation of the school.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute information related to the construction of the school, the students, and their activities. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may identify the presence of a potential outhouse associated with the school. A restroom, located in the east end of the ell, was not installed until the second half of the 20th century, indicating a potential privy as the only source for bathroom activities up to that point. Detailed

⁴² Barnard, *School Architecture*, 90.

⁴³ MHC Survey AYE.131, CAR.7, GRO.190, GRO.45, GRO.67, GRO.82, GRO. 137, PEP.308, PEP.321.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

analysis of the contents of that outhouse may contain evidence of the social, cultural, and economic lives of the students at the school, their families, and the residents of the Sandy Pond School neighborhood. Important evidence may also be present related to the activities conducted at the school, including educational methods and techniques and school maintenance. Barns, stables, outbuildings, occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells), and other features, structures, and objects may have been built in the area immediately surrounding the school. Construction features (builder's trenches) may also exist in the area within the foundation and immediately surrounding it.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute information related to the construction of the school, the students, and their activities. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may indicate the presence of one or all of the three school buildings that preceded the extant Sandy Pond School at this site. Any one or all of the earlier schools may contribute important information on the development of education in Groton (later Ayer) and the settlement of the town. A potential outhouse or outhouses may also be present. Detailed analysis of the contents of any potential outhouse may contain evidence of the social, cultural, and economic lives of the students at the school, their families, and the residents of the District No. 11 school neighborhood. The same analysis may also contribute important evidence related to the activities conducted at the school—including educational methods and techniques and school maintenance—and such evidence may survive for each of the potential schools present at the site. Barns, stables, outbuildings, and other features, structures, and objects may have been built in the area immediately surrounding the nominated property. Construction features associated with the initial building of the schools and later building history, including renovations and rebuilding, may also survive.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Maps and Atlases

Butler, Caleb, surveyor. "A map of the town of Groton, Middlesex County, Mass.: From a survey made in the years 1828 & 1829." Pendleton's Lithography, 1831. (Rastered digitized image accessed December 14, 2015.)

http://vc.lib.harvard.edu/vc/deliver/~maps/MATWN_3764_G86_1832_B8_C1 .

Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Smith & Bunstead, 1856.

F. W. Beers & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County*. New York: J. B. Beers & Co., 1875.

George H. Walker & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County*. Boston: G. H. Walker, 1889. (Littleton and Shirley detail.)

Manuscript Collections

Groton, Massachusetts, school records, District No. 11, 1806-1869. Vol. 3. Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

Sandy Pond School collection, including newspaper clippings, receipts, deeds. Boxes 11-14, Local History Room, Ayer Public Library.

Municipal Publications

By-Laws of the Town of Groton in Relation to the Public Schools. Reported to the Town April 7, 1856. (Available at the Groton Historical Society.)

Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Ayer. 1870-1874, 1876-1882, 1884, 1887-1889, 1899, 1904-1905. (Available at the Ayer Public Library.)

Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Groton.
1842, 1847-1848, 1850-1852, 1854-1859, 1861-1871 (Available at the Groton Public Library.)
1860-61 (Available at the Groton Historical Society.)

Annual Report of the Town of Groton. 1859-1860, 1862-1872. (Available at the Groton Public Library.)

Annual Report of the Town of Ayer. 1872-1908. (Available at the Ayer Public Library.)

Secondary Sources

Barnard, Henry. *Practical Illustrations of the Principles of School Architecture*. Hartford, CT: Case, Tiffany and Company, 1851.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

_____. *School Architecture; or Contributions to the Improvement of School Houses in the United States.*
New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1848.

Boutwell, George Sewall. *Reminiscences of Sixty Years in Public Affairs.* 2 Vols. New York: McClure
and Phillips and Co., 1902.

Boutwell, George Sewall. *Thoughts on educational topics and institutions.* Boston: Hobart and Robbins,
1859.

Brown, Thomas H. *George Sewall Boutwell: Human Rights Advocate.* Groton, MA: Groton Historical
Society, 1989.

Butler, Caleb. *History of the Town of Groton: Including Pepperell and Shirley.* Boston: T. R. Marvin,
1848.

Green, Samuel Abbott. *Groton Historical Series: A Collection of Papers Relating to the History of the
Town of Groton, Massachusetts.* 4 Vols. Groton, MA: 1877-1899. (Of particular use is Vol. 1,
ch. 9, "District Schools," 1886.)

Hurd, Hamilton D. compiler. *History of Middlesex County with Biographical Sketches.* Vol. 2, chapters
XLIX-LVII. Philadelphia: J. Lewis & Co., 1890.

Johnson, Sanford and Betsy Friedberg, District 7 School (Chicopee Road School), Groton, MA. National
Register of Historic Places nomination, 2008.

Katz, Michael B. *The Irony of Early School Reform: Educational Innovation in Mid-Nineteenth Century
Massachusetts.* Boston: Beacon Press, 1968.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Massachusetts Historical Commission Reconnaissance Survey
Town Report: Ayer.* 1980.

Murray, Barbara, Deborah E. Johnson, and Jayme Lulesz, editors. *Groton at 350: The History of a
Massachusetts Town, 1655-2005.* Groton, MA: Town of Groton, 2005.

Richardson, Edward Adams. *Moors School at old district No. 2, Groton, Massachusetts: the story of a
district school.* Ayer: H. S. Turner, printer, 1911. Accessed via
<https://archive.org/stream/moorsschoolatold00rich> on September 8, 2016.

Richardson, Ralph. "Sandy Pond District School No. 11." *The Public Spirit.* March 11, 1981, 24-5.

Rothfork, John. "Transcendentalism and Henry Barnard's 'School Architecture.'" *The Journal of
General Education.* Vol. 29, No. 3 (Fall 1977), pp. 173-187.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

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: Ayer Public Library, Groton Public Library, Groton Historical Society, Massachusetts Historical Society.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MHC AYE.238

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: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 291416 | Northing: 4715025 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The school boundaries are defined by the small triangular lot bounded by Sandy Pond Road, Westford Road, and a fork of Westford Road that has been discontinued and now serves as a parking area. The lot is identified by the Town of Ayer as Map 23.0, Block 0000, Lot 15, Parcel ID:019/023.0-0000-0015.0. The parking area is not located within the property boundaries.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries represent the historical property boundaries of the school. The existing property boundaries are described in the deed transferring ownership from the town of Ayer to the Sandy Pond School Association in 1908.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Stacy E. Spies, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director,
Massachusetts Historical Commission
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: February 2017

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

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.)

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: Sandy Pond School
City or Vicinity: Ayer
County: Middlesex State: Massachusetts
Photographer: Stacy E. Spies
Date Photographed: October 28, 2015

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

- 1 of 6. South and east elevations, camera facing northeast.
- 2 of 6. North and east elevations, camera facing southwest.
- 3 of 6. Interior, school room. Coat room at center rear. Piano and platform at right rear in former location of a second coat room. Camera facing southeast.
- 4 of 6. Interior, school room, camera facing northeast.
- 5 of 6. Kitchen ell, camera facing southeast.
- 6 of 6. Kitchen ell, camera facing northwest.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

FIGURES

Figure 1. Sketch floor plan

Figure 2. Sandy Pond School students ca. 1893 (Collection of Sandy Pond School Association).

Figure 3. Sandy Pond School reunion ca. 1910 (Collection of Sandy Pond School Association).

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.

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State

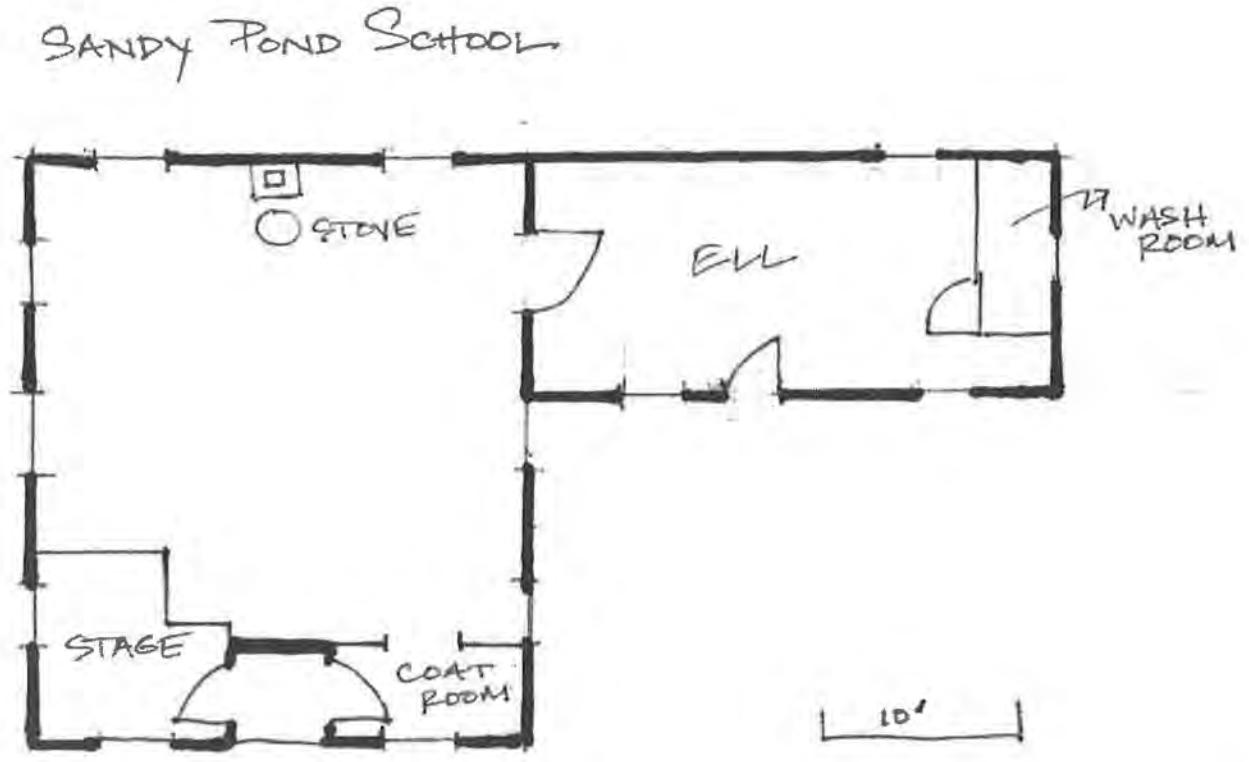


Figure 1. Sketch Floor Plan

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State



Figure 2. Sandy Pond School students ca. 1893. Collection of Sandy Pond School Association.
Note inset entrance. Door to coatroom visible

Sandy Pond School
Name of Property

Middlesex, Massachusetts
County and State



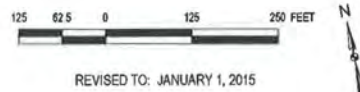
Figure 3. Sandy Pond School reunion ca. 1910. Collection of Sandy Pond School Association.
View looking northwest at east elevation of school. Note detached ell at right.



SANDY POND SCHOOL



PREPARED BY:
 Merrimack Regional Planning Commission
 GIS Department, September 2015
 R1427 Water Street
 Fitchburg, MA 01420
 Phone: 978-345-7378
 E-mail: mrpc@mrpc.org



REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2015

AYER, MA
 01432 - COMMUNITY ID 019
ASSESSOR MAPS

15	16	17
22	23	24
29	30	31

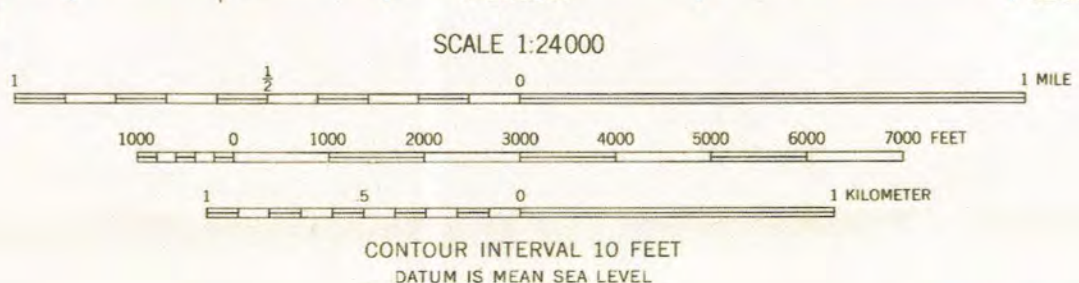
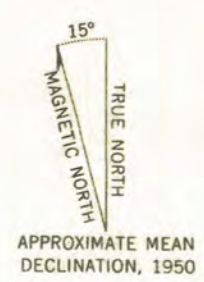
- Legend**
- Parcel Boundaries
 - Easements
 - Traffic Island
 - Water
 - Buildings

The maps herein are digital data developed for the sole use of the Town of Ayer, MA. The Town of Ayer, MA and the MRPC explicitly disclaims any representation, warranty, or liability for the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the maps and/or data. The maps and/or data were prepared from multiple Town, County, State and Federal sources, and such sources may not be identical. The maps and/or data should not be used for any purpose requiring a high level of accuracy or precision. In no event will the Town of Ayer, MA, the MRPC, or their officers or employees be liable for any losses or damages that result from the use of these maps and/or data. The Town of Ayer, MA and the MRPC shall assume no liability for any decisions made or actions taken by the user of this data.



SANDY POND SCH
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
AYER, MA
UTM ZONE 19
E 291,416
N 4715,025

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1923 and 1935. Revised 1950
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts (Mamian)
coordinate system.
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



USGS
Historical File
Topographic Division

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
○ State Route	



AYER, MASS.
N 4230-W 7130/7.5

1950

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

JUN 10 1950

2430



DISTRICT SCHOOL IN
HISTORIC
SCHOENKOPF

Please Visit Us
www.SandyPointSchoolHouse.com
Sandy Point School Association





SANDY POND
SCHOOL HOUSE

1792 FIRST SANDY POND SCHOOL WAS
SCHOOL DISTRICT # ESTABLISHED BY TOWN OF GYTON
WHICH BUILDING BUILT SAME YEAR
1810 LEADEN BUILDING BUILT ON THIS COST \$ 178.⁰⁰
1850 BUILDING BURNED DOWN
1862 THE BUILDING ERECTED ON THIS COST \$ 3281.⁰⁰
1906 SANDY POND SCHOOLHOUSE WAS







ALL OBJECTIONABLE
DANCING
FORBIDDEN



ALL OBJECTIONABLE
DANCING
FORBIDDEN
FOR THE
SANDY POND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Welcome
1800-1925





**ALL OBJECTIONABLE
DANCING
FORBIDDEN**
PRIN. CULCHER
SANDY POND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

THE SANDY POND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCIDENTS, INJURY OR VIOLENCE INCURRED OR SUSTAINED FROM ANY CAUSE WHILE ON THIS PROPERTY.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



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

March 9, 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Sandy Pond School, 150 Sandy Pond Road, Ayer (Middlesex), 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: George D. Bacon, Jr., Ayer Historical Commission
Gary Luca, Ayer Board of Selectmen
Irving Rockwood, Sandy Pond School Association
Stacy Spies, consultant
James Fay, Ayer Planning Board