



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name East Northfield School

other names/site number Pine Street School (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 13 Pine Street not for publication

city or town Northfield vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Franklin code 011 zip code 01301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon DSHPO Jan. 24, 2002
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson R. Beall 3/13/02

Franklin, MA
County and State

Ownership of Property

(Check only one box)

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

- Xbuilding(s)
- _ district
- _ site
- _ structure
- _ object

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

n/a

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		building
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH / EARLY 20TH C. REVIVALS/Colonial Reviv.

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ brick

walls wood

roof asphalt shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

The Pine Street School is in the town of Northfield, Massachusetts on the east side of the Connecticut River. Located on the alluvial flood plain of the river, the land of Northfield rises on the east to a range of hills Great Hemlock and Notch Mountain; on the west, it slopes to the river and lower plains of the River valley. The town of Northfield is located at the junction of three states and is surrounded by six towns. It is bordered on the north by Hinsdale, New Hampshire and South Vernon, Vermont, on the west by the Massachusetts towns of Bernardston and Gill, on the south by Erving and on the east by Warwick.

Pine Street is a short, quiet, residential street shaded by mature trees and occupied by large, late 19th and early 20th century homes and a few outbuildings. The homes are generally set back slightly from the street and surrounded by ample yards. The school is in close proximity to an existing National Register historic district (1982).

The Colonial Revival-style Pine Street School is a 1 ½-story, clapboard sided building set back a good distance from the street on a grass-covered yard. The building was given an imposing presence by having been placed on a slight grade on an otherwise level lot; high brick foundations and generous proportions add to its presence.

The center block of the east-facing building has a truncated, hipped roof of asphalt shingles from which two wings project. The wings at north and south have gable-on-hip roof configurations. The roof configuration and building height are further extended by through-cornice transverse gables centered on east and west elevations. The wings and transverse gables also give the building a more complex volume than its simple plan would suggest.

The east or street elevation is essentially divided into three bays: a center entry with a single bay on the south, and two ascending stair windows in the bay on the north. Simple Colonial Revival pilasters mark the building's corners; there is a relatively broad watertable and frieze to set off the clapboards. Entry to the building is through a deep porch one bay in width supported by posts and reached by a flight of six wooden steps. The porch is topped by a balustrade with simple square balusters. A Colonial Revival feature is the broad entrance with an entablature surround. Double-leaf, panelled doors are bordered by ¾ length sidelights and a full ten-light transom. Windows in the school have entablature surrounds and 2/2 double-hung sash. Above the entry on the east elevation is a modified Palladian window composition set in the transverse gable. A band of windows in the north and south wings of the main floor is composed of two full height 2/2 double-hung sash, flanking two, fixed, 2-light openings that correspond to the upper sash only. In the second floor gables the order is reversed with two, 2/2 sash in the center flanked by two, fixed 2/2 windows.

On the interior the entry doors lead to a full-width vestibule with an enclosed staircase at the right to the second floor and stairs to the basement at each side for boys and girls. A row of coat hooks is mounted on the interior wall of the vestibule. From the vestibule, panelled, varnished wood doors lead into two equally-sized classrooms. In all three rooms, walls are varnished, beadboard wainscoting below plaster walls. Chalkboards in each classroom cross the interior partition. The large first-floor windows at north and south illuminate the rooms. Hanging electric

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Pine Street School
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fixtures from the date of construction are located in each classroom. Floors on both first and second floors are relatively wide hardwood boards.

Stairs to the second floor end at a small vestibule lit by the modified Palladian window composition in the transverse gable. The vestibule, in turn, leads to a single large classroom. Wall finishes repeat the first floor with beadboard wainscoting and plaster with chalkboards – not slate. There are beadboard cupboards and bookcases on wall perimeters, and several examples of school desks that belonged to the school have been kept as part of the museum's display. The four window openings at each end of the room bring considerable light to the interior. A door centered on the west wall leads to an exterior stairs for a fire escape exit. The system of bells and gongs that alerted students and teachers to the schedule of the day are still in place beside the doorway.

From the first floor, stairs to the right and left of the main entry descend to the concrete-floored and stone-walled basement. Windows in the brick foundations illuminate the interior of the basement, supplemented by electrical lights. The basement is divided into two rooms, each containing an original set of two toilets separated from each other by wood partitions and wood swinging doors. An oil furnace heats the building.

The Pine Street school is in an exemplary state of preservation on both interior and exterior. Now in limited use as a town museum, it contains display cases and mainly 19th-century furniture and artifacts donated by Northfield residents, but its function as a schoolhouse is completely evident and no alterations to the interior have been made since it was closed in 1940. In addition, few were made between 1904 and 1940. The second floor was finished off to serve as a classroom and the bell system was added, but interior finishes were left unaltered.

On the exterior work has been of a maintenance or preservation nature; a single chimney has been reconstructed. The exterior has not been visibly altered and is in good condition. The landscaping of the lot has also been well maintained. Shaded by several mature trees on the east, there is yet mostly open space between the school and the street so the lot is grass covered and maintains its level, playground appearance. On the west, fencing has been erected to mark the boundary of the school lot close to the west elevation. The boundary is further marked by trees and shrubbery, as are the north and south lot lines.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to document the evolution of Northfield's public educational system during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Archaeological resources may contribute information that documents the social, cultural and economic characteristics of students in the school system, their families and the overall community. Archaeological resources may also contribute information that documents architectural details of the District #2 Schoolhouse, the existing building and changes that may have occurred to each structure. Documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate the site of the District #2 schoolhouse and associated occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) present on the site after 1889. Structural evidence from the District #2 site may contribute important architectural details of that building including alterations that may have been made during its move in 1889. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features

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Pine Street School
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associated with the District #2 schoolhouse site and the East Northfield School may contribute important information that documents the community's changing attitudes towards its youth, their education and health during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

(end)

Pine Street School

Name of Property

Franklin, MA

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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1903-1940

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Augustus W. Holton, architect

Frederick A. and Samuel C. Holton, builders

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

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Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

The Pine Street School is significant as an example of an early 20th century school built to accommodate the most current educational thinking and to meet the expectations of a small Massachusetts community. For the town of Northfield the parallel private educational system, the Northfield Seminary, now Northfield-Mt. Hermon Academy, dated from the first decade of the 19th century and acted as a stimulus to the public educational system, a stimulus that found its most advanced expression in construction of the 1904 Pine Street School. Indoor bathrooms, heating by furnace, and a ventilation system were provided for the first time in a Northfield school as townspeople made the link between improved physical conditions and improved health and learning abilities of its children. Between 1904 and 1940 the school was an important community setting for the national and local events that affected the town and for the education of many of the town's citizens by teachers who were active in community life.

The school is an excellent example of an architect-designed Colonial Revival elementary school, pragmatic in function yet dignified in appearance and an example of the work of a western Massachusetts architect whose years of activity spanned the turn of the century, Augustus Holton. The school's design befits Northfield's well-known 19th century Federal and Greek Revival style buildings constructed by the town's important designers, the Stearns family. The school meets National Register criteria A and C, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is of local significance.

Colonial Period 1650-1776

In spite of its perilous history during King Philip's war, the town of Northfield followed the timetable of most settlements in establishing education for its children. Formal education is first recorded in 1721 when Elizabeth Arms Field taught pupils in her home, charging 4 pence a week during the twenty-two weeks of warm weather. Her daughter Joanna took up Elizabeth Field's work as the second teacher in town, and by 1736 the town had grown to the point that it required a schoolhouse. One was built in the common land that became Main Street, a suitable location for the town's school as well as its meetinghouse. The 1736 school was replaced in 1748 by a second building. It appears that school classes continued to be held in Northfield until the French and Indian war so threatened the town that the school was suspended for two years between 1756 and 1758. The County Court intervened then to require the town to attend to its responsibilities and reestablish its schooling. Shortly thereafter, in 1761, Seth Field was hired to teach school for fall and winter classes and the following year a new schoolhouse was built to replace the earlier one. Town reports explain that townspeople felt that the schoolhouse had grown shabby in comparison to a new meetinghouse that had been built in 1761. The new schoolhouse was as spartan as its contemporaries in the rural towns of Massachusetts, however, it was a single room, 20' x 21' in dimension.

Federal Period 1776-1830

During the Revolution, Northfield continued to have a single school district and a single

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Pine Street School
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schoolhouse whose classes were taught by Seth Field until 1781, but public education was exclusively for boys, and girls were taught reading and writing independently in local homes. In 1781 the town voted to create three school districts and three schoolhouses in "the street," referring to the common land that made up the main thoroughfare through Northfield. Ten small additional schools in outlying areas of town were set up to accommodate pupils outside the center. The districting and school construction represented the town's decision to increase its expenditures to improve school conditions and make it easier for children to get to a school.

In the Center the three districts functioned until they were combined into a single district with a new schoolhouse in 1800, a two-story school known as Union Hall. Union Hall was multipurpose as classes were held on the first floor; the second floor was used for meetings, and at one time by the builder Calvin Stearns as office space. Public education was still only for boys.

Providing for district schools during the Federal Period was haphazard with each district attending to its school's needs. Townspeople were aware of the inequities this independence brought about so they appointed a superintending committee of local citizens that would buy wood to heat the schools, hire teachers - at \$2 a week - and make arrangements for teachers's board in local homes - at \$1 a week. Each district however continued to act quite independently of the others in regard to its courses and teaching standards and guarded their ability to control the school and its costs zealously. The quality of education varied significantly as a result of each district's disparate abilities and inclinations to support the school.

In Northfield Center a second school district was created in 1802 near Pine Meadow Brook in the eastern section. Known as the East Northfield district, it was later to be served by the Pine Street School.

Meanwhile in 1805-06 a private school for girls was opened in the Center on the second floor of Union Hall by Sally Williams, who thus began a tradition that continued with few interruptions of private schooling for Northfield's girls. Many of Williams's students went on to teach in the local district schools. By 1810 girls were allowed to enter public schools, but a parallel tradition of private schooling was continued by Patience Bancroft who ran a school from 1814-1816 in Union hall for a nine-month school year. Hannah Blake followed with a similar school in 1821, and Union Hall was also the site chosen by Emily and Eliza Draper, each of whom successively ran a select school for girls for several years.

It wasn't until 1829 that Northfield's students could study beyond the elementary grades, or common school. In that year, a group of local citizens organized a private upper-level school for classical studies for both young men and women. The education-minded group realized that public education was lagging behind the private schooling available to young women, and further, that students, and in particular Northfield's young men, were receiving only the most practical of educations; most were not prepared to go to college. The new institution was optimistically called the Northfield Academy of Useful Knowledge and operated until 1843.

Early Industrial Period 1830-1875

In 1836 the Massachusetts Board of Education was created and, under the leadership of Horace

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Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

Mann, began to raise teaching standards and make them more uniform among towns. Mann set the limit of students who could be taught by one teacher at 40, but small class size and uniform teaching standards were only two of the problems that Northfield faced. Town Reports for this period continually stressed that students attended irregularly, that there was no established set of courses and students were found to be repeating work each year, thereby making no progress. The East Northfield district, or District #2, had a one-room school on Main Street across from the home of evangelist Dwight L. Moody; attendance was optional and very irregular. According to Betty Congdon in the *Northfield Community News*, Moody himself was one of the school's irregular scholars.

Northfield's districts continued to set their own standards that varied greatly from district to district despite Mann's efforts. Town sentiment, however, began to shift towards improving conditions. In the 1870s there were 13 districts in town, only 10 had students, school only lasted 26 weeks and teachers were coping with mixed age classes of up to 40 children between the ages of 5 and 18 in a single classroom. Teachers quit regularly. It was in these conditions that Rev. Moody of Northfield founded the Northfield Seminary for young women in 1879, a private school with standardized and high level of education. The school took young women aged 15 and up and for \$100 a year tuition and board, and gave them a comprehensive education by an accomplished staff. The Seminary appears to have had some effect during this period on Northfield's public education as Seminary graduates, who were among the best educated teachers available, occasionally taught in a district school for a year or two. Although the cost of Moody's private education was beyond the reach of most of Northfield's families; the excellence of the education stood as an example for the community to strive for.

Industrial Period 1875-1915

Whether the education committee was comparing its schools to Northfield Seminary or not, they wrote their evaluation of Northfield's district schools in the Town Report for 1875 as having too few teachers, no curriculum, too many schools, and poor schoolhouses. Over the next five years Reports consistently outlined these conditions. Tardiness and absence were always a problem, but now it appeared to the townspeople that the root of the problem was the old district system that they considered outmoded. The solution growing in public estimation was a town system, and beginning in 1880-81 there was also a call to add a high school to the school system. Educational change is often slow and it wasn't until 1883 that voters abolished districts. Leading the reform movement in town, the school committee proposed a public high school assuring parents that if they could not transport their students to town to classes they could board them in town. The committee also advocated an additional two weeks of schooling from 32 to 34 as it was "stinting" at 32.

During the Industrial Period, New England was the center of various movements to improve living conditions not only in its industrialized cities, but also in its rural towns and villages. One aspect of greater attention to the individual was the concept of childhood as a distinct period of life; and the need for society to protect and guide its children. Society's changing attitudes to childhood and education sifted down to the local level and in Northfield ideals of moral behavior and physical health that were developed in the larger social movement began to appear in Town Reports as goals in education. The 1884 school committee report lists educational problems as irregular

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Pine Street School
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attendance due to sickness and slack parents, and the difficulties of keeping satisfied teachers. Adults were cautioned to be better models and not to discourage students by criticizing teachers. Untidy outhouses were cited as a moral threat to students. This theme of moral and physical health appeared again in 1886 when the school committee identified poor ventilation as the worst problem in the schools. The school committee, in an increasingly stronger argument for better schools, made the link between health and performance, asserting in 1886 that pure air in the school meant good blood for the students which led to brainpower and free nerves. What they were recognizing was that spartan schoolhouse conditions had not improved appreciably over the past decades: 25-30 students were still in a single, wood-stove-heated room that measured 12 to 15 square feet. The conditions of the common outhouse were often poor. Meanwhile at the state level, educators were lobbying for measures to assure quality of education and that year legislators passed a law requiring towns to provide books for their students. Northfield followed its mandate. With a limited budget the town had to choose among desirable improvements, and Northfield had to provide free textbooks and supplies to students at an expense of \$1.05 per child rather than improving physical conditions.

The schoolhouse in district #2 was moved from its Main Street location in 1889 to Pine Street. The land was donated to the town by A. H. Moody and the Town Reports for that year record that the town paid \$160 for the move "with an interruption of only about two days to the fall term" and observed that, "this house now has one of the best locations in town." In 1892 the school in its new location on Pine Street was basically a good building yet neglected, and the lack of money for schools was responsible for no repairs having been made to it since 1889.

Evidence of an effort to improve teaching, though, appeared in 1892 -- a teachers' convention was held in Town Hall. In 1893 the report from the School Committee explained that the course of study and methods of instruction in the town's schools aimed at independent thought and responsible actions, but in that regard the town still had serious problem with absentees. There was some improvement the following year (1894) as the school committee summarized the town's situation as having some good and some bad schools, an improvement in attendance but an indifference among students that was now limited more to those between the ages of 13 and 15. Striving for improvement came from all sides as students of the District 2 school joined the other two center school students in getting up an entertainment to raise money for library books.

If the daily lives of students were slowly improving, those of teachers were improving slightly as well. At the East Northfield district, teacher Lucy Alexander in 1895 earned \$192.00 per year and apparently satisfied, she remained in her position. But schoolhouses were still far from comfortable. The East Northfield School was heated by wood that Willie Alexander provided for \$12.60 a year and Ms. Alexander had an average of thirty pupils a term. A major improvement for teachers and students, however, took place in 1896. The town took advantage of a Massachusetts 1893 amendment to an 1888 act directing the state to make payments to towns to enable them to hire school superintendents. In 1896 J.E. Warren was hired as the first superintendent for Northfield's schools. Warren's duties were ambitiously described as to select teachers, direct their training, arrange the courses of study in the schools, to select books and supplies, promote and grade pupils, control attendance, and oversee school buildings and their furnishings. As superintendent, Warren was explicitly directed to improve the sanitary conditions at the schools for the moral and physical environment of children.

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Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

Improvements were immediate. In 1897 Anna L. Thompson at East Northfield or District #2 school had 52 pupils, but usually only 31 attended. The following year her teaching load was split among three teachers, Anna Thompson, Lucy Bright and Alice Dwight. With fewer pupils, the standard of teaching was raised. Attendance was better, the town took better care of its school buildings and outhouses, and at #2, a new method of heating and ventilating was installed. Music, drawing, and nature study were introduced into the grades; healthy exercise and aesthetic, ethical, and religious values were regularly taught. Teachers' pay was also increased. In 1900 teacher Alice Dwight at #2 got \$360 a year, almost twice as much as Lucy Alexander had received five years earlier. Kindergarten was also introduced into the schools this year. In sum, the town was trying to bring its schools into harmony with the Massachusetts school system to follow the best educational thought of the day that included free normal schools, free textbooks, plans for skilled supervision, compulsory attendance and prevention of child labor.

Not all improved uniformly. In 1902 state attendance average was 92% but in Northfield it was only 85%. The East Northfield school in 1902 had now declined to poor condition - bad for scholars and for teachers - and a new schoolhouse was clearly needed. For the year of 1903 the town spent only \$161.93 for repairs to all of its schools from a total school budget of \$5,613.95. The town was spending less on educating its pupils than many other towns. The state average expenditure was \$7,313. While Whately spent \$6,496, Northfield only spent \$4,421. The number of pupils was so large even the most highly educated teacher could not work satisfactorily, and often school in East Northfield was cancelled because the classrooms were too smokey or too cold. There were more than 50 students and the school was divided into four primary grades and four grammar school grades. In 1903 an additional room had to be rented to house its pupils. The three previous teachers had left and were replaced by only two, Lottie Evans and A. A. Quimby.

The School Committee, now consulting with the Superintendent, laid out its requirements for a new schoolhouse that revealed their desire to have a new building with all the improvements that they knew contributed to the physical and moral growth of their children. Yet the same Yankee ethic was at work that had dominated decisions on schoolhouses since the 18th century: the new school, they dictated, should have three elements, heat, ventilation and sanitation, but beauty and comfort were recommended only as far as the town could afford. Fortunately, it appears that the town felt it could afford a good measure of beauty and comfort and the Pine Street School was constructed between 1903 and 1904. At the time of its construction the school exemplified the most modern school facility available. It had a furnace for central heating, a planned ventilation system and, as the school was on the town's water system it had separate toilets for boys and girls in the school basement, a first for a Northfield school. On the interior finishes were appropriate with the period's standard materials, plaster walls with beadboard wainscoting and the best of chalkboards. According to local historian Herbert Parsons, the cost of the school was \$4,000.

Architect for the Pine Street School was Augustus C. Holton who had been born in Northfield in 1850, a member of a family that had lived in the town from the time of its settlement. Holton lived and practiced architecture in Westfield at the time the school was constructed. He had left Northfield for Westfield to study architecture in 1871, then ran an active practice for 25 years, and according to his 1908 obituary, nearly every street of Westfield had one of his buildings on it. Holton and his brother Samuel who lived in Northfield were often selected for work in the town. Augustus designed Memorial Hall and the High School and Samuel constructed them. Both

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Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

Samuel and Fred Holton constructed the Pine Street School. Samuel was listed on the 1900 census as having been born in 1844, and Fred was working as a 27-year-old carpenter. Fred later became the chairman of the Northfield Board of Selectmen and a member, with his wife Julia, of the 250th anniversary celebration of the town.

In comparison to Holton's Westfield schools, the much smaller, frame Pine Street School seems to be closer to the one-room schoolhouse than an architectural expression of 20th century educational progress. Northfield's available budget and under-anticipated school population may have played a role in the school's size and design, but more important, the school is sensitive in scale and materials to its residential neighborhood where 2 ½ story clapboard-covered houses predominate. It fits the definition of a small neighborhood school, yet harmonizes well with the Northfield-Mount Hermon campus buildings a block away. Holton designed the school for \$125 in the most popular style of the period, the Colonial Revival and while the building was relatively modest in scale, it fit well into the context of Northfield's existing architecture being clapboard covered, provided with generous stylistic detailing and a complex form that was both attractive and functional. With an eye to making the most of its visual impact, Holton set the school on high brick foundations on a raised portion of the lot.

The Holtons, Augustus, Samuel and Fred were active in Northfield. As Augustus was the architect, Samuel and Fred were contractors for the Pine Street School. Samuel, Augustus' brother, was listed on the 1900 census as having been born in 1844, and Fred in that year was working as a 27-year-old carpenter. Fred later would become chairman of the Northfield Board of Selectmen and a member, with his wife Julia, of the 250th anniversary celebration of the town.

Following the Pine Street School, Augustus Holton was selected to design the new high school (1911), and in it a Memorial Hall; Samuel Holton constructed them. The High School follows the model Holton set for Westfield's schools. It is a large brick school building on Main Street, Classical Revival in style, that reflected its importance as the town's first public high school building.

The school was completed after February of 1904. School desks were provided by George N. Kidder and Company, lumber by H. A. Reed, and the Fleming and Crown Company did the heating and plumbing. Samuel Holton was not only one of the co-contractors but also did masonry work. The old school remained on the property as Samuel Holton bought it from the town for \$50 in 1904. It may have remained in the neighborhood as an outbuilding into the 1930s. While the new school lot was itself rather small in size, land behind the school was owned by the Colton family who kept it mowed so it could be used as a playing field.

The new school was tested quickly. By 1906 the town had 253 children between ages of 5 and 15 and the newly constructed Pine Street School with its two first floor classrooms was already crowded. At the time of its construction, the two-story school had been finished off for classrooms on the first floor only, but the high attic space was intended for eventual expansion and classrooms were fit out in it.

Not unrelated to crowded classrooms, in three successive years epidemics hit the schools;

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Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

measles in 1906, scarlet fever in 1907 and whooping cough in 1908. When this happened the town's schools were generally closed to stop the spread, but finally a doctor was hired to do physical exams of students and when smallpox broke out in Brattleboro in 1908, children were vaccinated at all Northfield's schools. Mindful of children's dental health as well, Northfield's dentist Dr. George Thompson volunteered to examine children's teeth for free on Saturdays.

In 1911 a new public high school was constructed which was a relief to the center, but not to Pine Street School that in 1912 was overly crowded and had no more unfinished space for classroom expansion. Two teachers continued to cover the primary and grammar school grades at Pine Street. Viola E. Haven who taught the 38 pupils of grammar school grades 5-8 was a high school graduate of Athol, and Lottie Evans who taught 42 children in the primary grades 1-4 had graduated from the Northfield Seminary, also high school. For their work in overcrowded classrooms of mixed ages, Haven got \$50 a month and Evans got \$44. Adding pressure on the schools was the fact that the compulsory age for school attendance in 1913-14 remained 7-14 years, but new legislation was passed that extended it to 16 unless students had certificates to work at home or to be employed elsewhere.

Education in Northfield's Industrial Period, and by extension at Pine Street School, made important progress with the health and well-being of its students. Improvements to their well-being were intellectual as well as physical, and included expansion of the curriculum to include cultural education in music and art, of their physical well-being in exercise and health care. The Pine Street School typifies the town's struggle to achieve modern education for a growing school age population within a limited budget and long-standing thriftiness among its residents. The school was architecturally well-designed and built by one of its founding families, yet only the first floor was finished so it could be expanded at a later date; music and drawing were introduced into its curriculum, but two teachers had to manage four grades each.

Early Modern Period 1915-1945

The Early Modern Period saw a significant shift in education in Northfield and the children of Pine Street School were a part of the shift. While children's health continued to be addressed through the schools, national and world events influenced school curriculum and school activities as never before.

The effect of World War I on the town and its schools appears most prominently as a fuel shortage and a debate took place on whether it would be more efficacious to heat by wood than by coal. It appears that Pine Street continued to be heated by coal. We know that the turnover of teachers diminished as conditions improved, and that many of the teachers long remained respected members of the community after their retirement. In 1915 Northfield ranked fifth in Franklin County in per pupil payments, and parents organized the first Parent Teacher Association. The level of education at the school was high, so that three of the great grandsons of Dwight L. Moody attended the school during the period. One became head of the Powell Insurance Agency, another a school principal, the third was a trustee of Northfield Mt. Hermon school.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

In 1918 the State mandated that towns over a certain size were to pay not less than \$550/year to their teachers. Northfield was below the minimum level so it was needed to expend an additional \$1000 a year to meet the mandate. There were now 76 students at the Pine Street School with two teachers. Influenza hit the schools that year and because the schools were closed to limit spread of the disease, an extra half hour was added each day during the last few months of the school year to make up the time; but in general Northfield's pupils were not as heavily hit by the disease as in other parts of the state.

The 1920s saw consistent improvements in education. In 1928 the town voted to introduce manual training and domestic science and both were soon taught to Pine Street's sixth grade. The school's two teachers, Misses Sheldon and Kimball, were assigned to the lower floors at the school in 1928 and a school system nurse and doctor began caring for students in September. They used the second floor coat room as an examining room. The town voted to introduce electricity at the east school, along with a system of bells and gongs. Meanwhile the school committee worked on providing more room in the school for a playroom. In 1929 the Pine Street School had 42 boys and 31 girls in grades 1-8. But in that same year malnourished children were showing up in the doctor's examinations in addition to the common problems with tonsils, adenoids, and impetigo. Whether malnutrition statistics were due to the fact there was now a full time nurse and school doctor available to monitor the children, or whether they were a reflection of the Depression is not certain, however, nutritional advice was sent home to parents to improve the situation. In 1930 Miss Truesdell replaced Viola Haven and Dorothy Tatman taught the middle grade room.

In 1931 there was yet another new teacher, Harriet Mills who was a graduate of Fitchburg Normal school, an improvement in teacher credentials. The school was given a new basement furnace; it had adequate water pressure and modern sanitation. The combination of better health care and improved conditions in the school may have been partly responsible for fact that Northfield's children escaped polio.

The number of pupils in the school jumped in 1932 when children from the closed Mountain district school were brought by car to Pine Street School. So there were 50 boys and 28 girls. In 1932 it jumped to an all time high of 82.

In 1933 the school superintendent described that the Depression brought a decrease in the amount of money needed to run the schools, yet an increase in the number of pupils. He glumly summarized the state of affairs as, "...decline in every phase of human endeavor". To meet the reduced budget they reduced the schools's year, postponed repairs, reduced salaries, and did not buy new texts. Music instruction was simply cancelled. The number of students at Pine Street declined slightly to 78.

But the following year of 1934 saw a rise in morale if not in conditions, due it was felt to a strong teacher corps. Pine Street school was painted inside which would have contributed to better spirits, although the exterior needed painting as well. Five fewer students eased the crowding and a music teacher was re-hired. But in 1935 the doctor was still seeing poor nutrition and said the number was 49 students. In 1937 new toilets were constructed at the school and enrollment was down to 64.

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

In 1938 the Pine Street 8th grade was transferred to the center school and the West School upper room went to Pine Street so that there were 78 pupils in 1st through 7th grades. Malnutrition continued to affect 69 children that year: too high a rate, the doctor noted. In 1939 Pine Street School was fireproofed, but in 1940 the Center school burned down which precipitated wide-spread changes in the school system. A new school was built in the Center and the town consolidated its schools to the Center to attend the fireproofed building. Sixty percent of the town's students were bussed to the new school, and although it had been fire proofed the year before, the Pine Street School was closed for the consolidation. The school remained closed for three years until it was reopened in 1943 as a town museum. Joseph R. Colton, Northfield Historical Society director conceived of using the school in this way and was the first curator-custodian.

Modern Period 1945-present

The Pine Street School has continued in use as a museum and repository of school and town artifacts collected and displayed by the Northfield Historical Society. Technically still in town ownership, the building is being transferred to Historical Society ownership. It is one of only five remaining of the thirteen Northfield schools dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries. One is abandoned and severely deteriorated, one has been converted to a residence, and the third is in use, relatively unchanged, as a Veterans' building.

Archaeological Description

While no Ancient Native American sites are recorded on the school property, sites may be present. Eight sites are recorded in the general area along tributary streams and on the floodplain of the Connecticut River. Environmental characteristics of the nominated property indicate the presence of locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of ancient sites. These criteria are similar to known sites in the general area. The East Northfield School is located on a well drained, level to moderately sloping floodplain terrace of the Connecticut River. An unnamed pond and wetlands are located within 1000 feet of the property. The Connecticut River is located approximately 2000 feet west of the school. In spite of the above information, the potential for locating ancient Native American resources on the school property is low. Movement of the district #2 schoolhouse from Main Street to the Pine Street site in 1889, related construction for the site of the schoolhouse, potential outbuildings, and construction of the existing school, which has a full basement, on the small lot (.67 acres), would have adversely effected the integrity of any ancient Native resources present on the property.

The potential for locating historic archaeological resources on the school property is high. The District #2 schoolhouse, moved to the Pine Street site in 1889, remained on the property after construction of the existing school in 1903. Structural evidence may survive from the earlier school and an outhouse that may have been present. Trash pits and artifact scatters may also exist on the property. No land use has been identified on the site prior to 1889.

(end)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

Bibliography

Annual Reports of the Selectment, Overseers, Together with the Reports of the School Committee, Treasurer, Collector, Cemetery Commissioners, Trustees and Librarian, Northfield 1875-1945.

Beers atlas of 1871.

Calendar of Northfield Seminary, Boston, 1887.

Census of Massachusetts, 1900.

Congdon, Betty. "Remembering the Pine Street School", typescript, adapted from and article in *Northfield Community News*, December 2000.

Downs, Robert. *Horace Mann: Champion of Public Schools*, New York, 1974.

Martin, George. *The Evolution of the Massachusetts Public School System*, New York, 1894.

Parsons, Herbert Collins. *Puritan Outpost*, New York, 1937.

Scrapbook of news clippings from *Gazette & Courier*, 1905-1952, Northfield Public Library.

Temple, J. H. and George Sheldon. *History of Northfield*, New York, 1875.

250th Anniversary Celebration of the Town of Northfield, 1923.

1795 map of Northfield

1830 map of Northfield.

(end)

Pine Street School
Name of Property

Franklin, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .67 acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 18	709010	4473100		3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2.			4.			
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
— See continuation sheet						

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jean Kozloski, NHC and Bonnie Parsons, PVPC, with Betsy Friedberg, NR director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 2002

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Town of Northfield, MA

street & number 69 Main Street telephone 413-498-2901

city or town Northfield state MA zip code 01360

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Pine Street School
Northfield (Franklin), MA

Verbal Boundary Description

Please see attached assessor's sheet, Map 17A, Northfield, Lot 3.

Boundary Justification

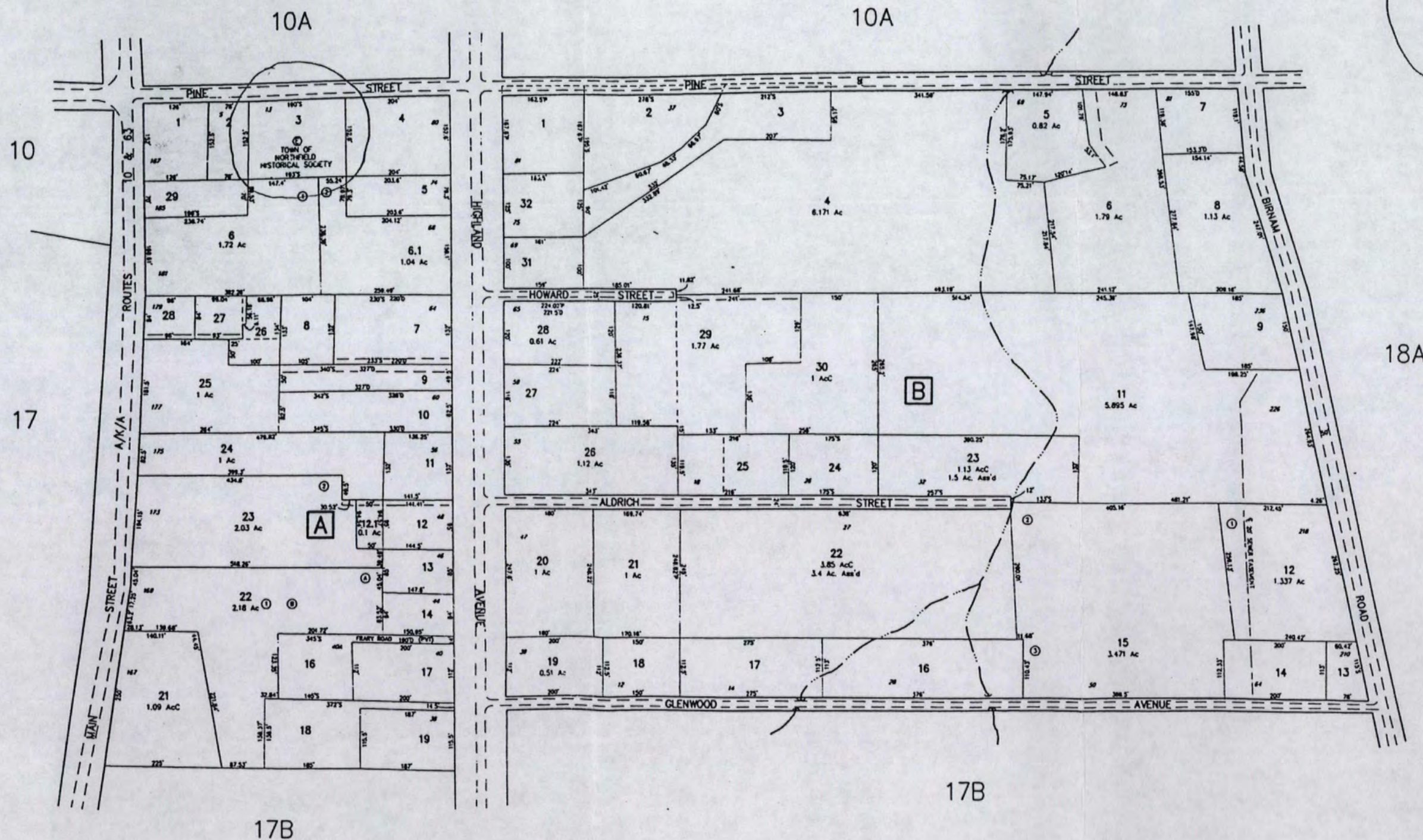
The boundaries have been drawn to follow the lot lines historically associated with the Pine Street school. Although near the existing Main Street Historic District (NRDIS, 1982), the distance between the school and the district is such that an extension to existing district is not feasible.

(end)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Taken by Jean Kozlowski, September 2000
Negatives at Massachusetts Historical Commission

1. Front of the school, facing N with porch and hip roof.
2. East end of the building as well as the front of the building.
3. West side of the building, including a view of the back and fire escape.
4. Side view of front porch and schoolyard.



MAP NO.
17A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY East Northfield School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/13/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/01/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000156

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 3/13/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



1
Pine Street School

13 Pine St.

Northfield, ma

Jean Kozlowski Sept. '00

negatives included

number 1 of 4

Front of the School, Facing north with the porch & hip roof



- Pine Street School
13 Pine St.
Northfield

Jean Kozlowski, Sept. '00
negatives included
number 2 of 4

East side of the building as well as the front of the building



Pine Street School
13 Pine St.
North Field

Jean Kozlowski, Sept. '00
negatives included
number 3 of 4

West side of building including a view of the back and the
fire escape.

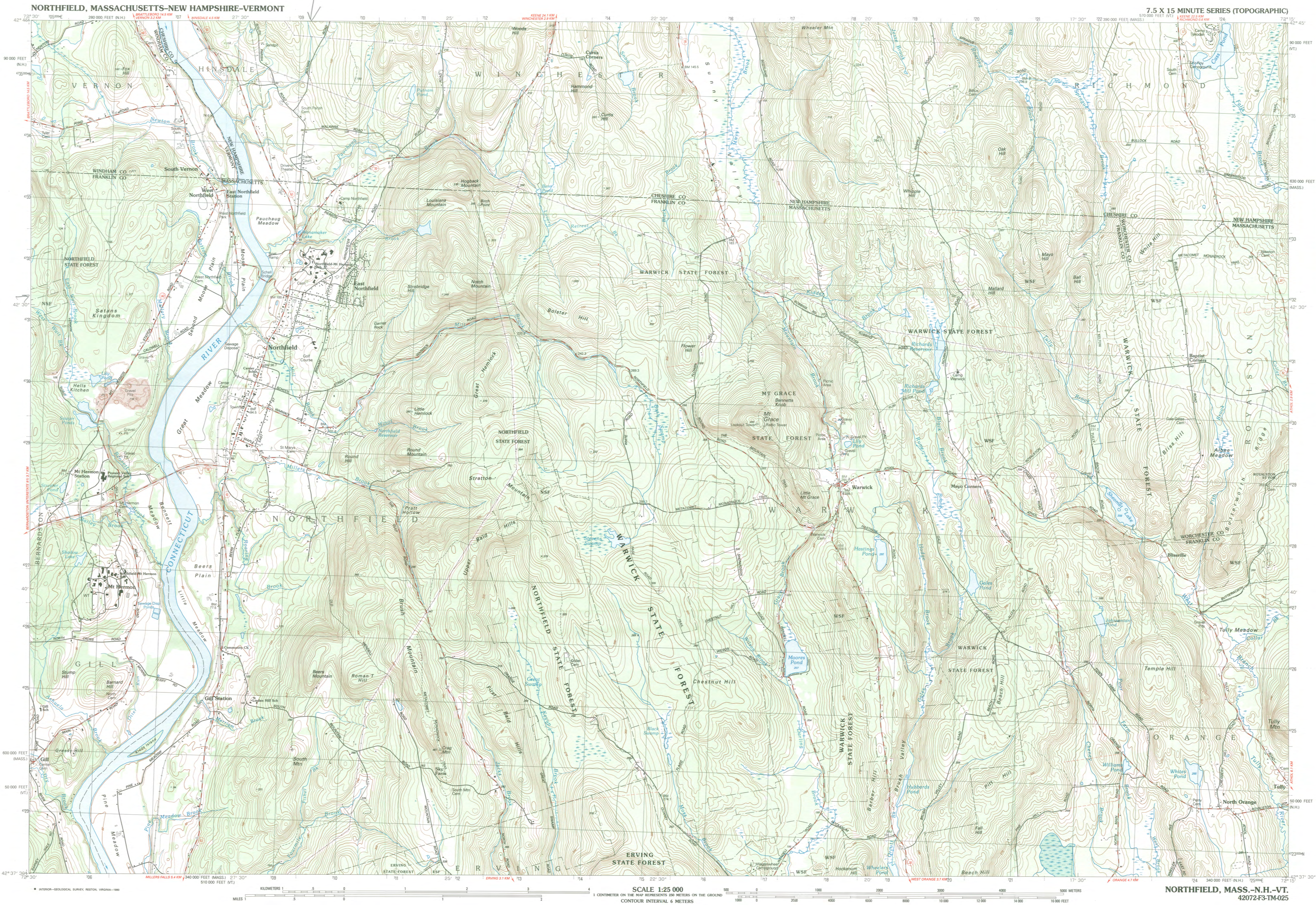


4

Pine Street School
13 Pine St.
North Field

Jean Kozlowski, Sept '00
negatives included
number 4 of 4

Side view ^{of} front porch and the yard and neighboring $\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling



Northfield

MASS.-N.H.-VT.

47-003
ADVENTURE
\$9.95

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1990

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981 and 1982. Field checked 1984. Map edited 1990
Supersedes Northfield and Mt. Grace 1:25 000-scale map dated 1977
This area also covered by 7.5-minute 1:24 000-scale maps: Northfield and Mt. Grace dated 1977
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18
Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, New Hampshire and Vermont coordinate systems 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 38 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 6 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE	
Meters	Feet
1	3.281
2	6.562
3	9.843
4	13.124
5	16.405
6	19.686
7	22.967
8	26.248
9	29.529
10	32.810

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.281
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

UTM grid convergence
at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
4	5	
6	7	8

1 Brattleboro
2 Winchester
3 Monkshead Mtn.
4 Brattleboro
5 Winchester
6 Greenfield
7 Orange
8 Athol

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road; trail	.....
Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State	.....
Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Bulk-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	.....
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County, parish	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument; found section corner	.....
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	.....
Range, township; section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam; dam with lock	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	.....
Windmill; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or ore	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand	.....
Sounding; depth curve	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Swamp; marsh	.....
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	.....
Woodland; scattered trees	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

cm NR ple
RECEIVED

OCT 30 2001

MASS. HIST. COMM

SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER

WORCESTER, HAMPDEN,
HAMPSHIRE AND FRANKLIN
DISTRICT

ROOM 109B

TEL. 617-722-1540

FAX 617-722-1078

E-Mail: SBrewer@senate.state.ma.us

COMMITTEES:

STEERING AND POLICY (CHAIR)
PUBLIC SAFETY (VICE-CHAIR)

ENERGY
LOCAL AFFAIRS
ETHICS

October 25, 2001

Ms. Cara Metz, Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Metz:

I am writing to express my support that the Pine Street School (13 Pine Street, Northfield, MA 01360) be nominated by the Massachusetts Historical Commission to be included on the National Register of Historic Places.

As you are aware, the Pine Street School is one of only several schoolhouses that remain in Northeast Franklin County, and is of great importance to the community. The Pine Street School is located in the vicinity of the historic Main Street area, as well as the 17th century Town Common area, which was included in the Town Commons Preservation Initiative sponsored by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) in 2000. Furthermore, I feel strongly that the preservation of the school will benefit the revitalization of the immediate area.

In conclusion, I fully support the Pine Street School being nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, and I encourage the Massachusetts Historical Commission to give the school all due consideration in this matter. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance in this regard.

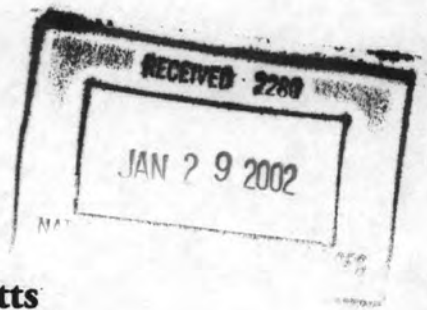
Sincerely,



STEPHEN M. BREWER

State Senator

SMB/klv



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

January 24, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Pine Street School, Northfield (Franklin), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Bonnie Parsons, PVPC, consultant
Jean Kozlowski, Northfield Historical Commission
David Balk, Northfield Planning Board
John Spandauer, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Northfield Historical Society
Sen. Stephen Brewer



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

March 25, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

In the weekly update of March 22, 2002, the following property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as of March 13, 2002: East Northfield School, Northfield (Franklin), MA. I am writing to request that the property be listed under its historic name, as indicated on the cover form for the nomination—that is,

02000156

Pine Street School, Northfield (Franklin), MA

Thank you for making this change to the listing record for this historic property.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Bonnie Parsons, PVPC, consultant
Jean Kozlowski, Northfield Historical Commission
David Balk, Northfield Planning Board
John Spandauer, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Northfield Historical Society
Sen. Stephen Brewer