

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



OMB No. 10024-0018

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 Tarkiln School

other names/site number School No. 4, Sunnyside, Tar Kiln School, Twin Schools, Tarkiln Youth Center

2. Location

street & number 245 Summer Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Duxbury ☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Plymouth code 023 zip code 02332

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 July 13, 2009
Signature of certifying official/Title
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Brona Simon State Historic Preservation Officer Date

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 H. Beall 8-26-09

Tarkiln School
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal
- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE

GLASS

Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tarkiln School
Duxbury (Plymouth)MA

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary Paragraph

Tarkiln School is a single-story, wood-frame, clapboarded Greek Revival building with Italianate details, in the Tarkiln neighborhood of Duxbury, Massachusetts. The present U-shaped building began with its south wing, a one-room school constructed in 1871 (the right-hand building when viewed from the street). This original rectangular building has slender corner pilasters, Italianate window brackets, and, in the front gable, gable end returns and a prominent fanlight attic vent. The second parallel portion, a close copy of the original, was erected north of the original building in 1908. The two separate buildings were joined on their east end with a hyphen, completed in 1926, with a further eastern kitchen extension added in 1951. The interior of the present building retains many of the original elements, including Greek Revival trim, chestnut wainscoting, pressed tin ceiling and wall panels, and seven-panel doors. The building is set on a 5.75-acre lot, which includes two baseball fields, two tennis courts, two small sheds, and a small memorial park. Owned by the Town of Duxbury, Tarkiln School is generally in good condition and only slightly altered since its period of significance (1871-1959).

Setting

The setting of Tarkiln School is a rural crossroads in sparsely settled western Duxbury, on the eastern side of Summer Street at its intersection with Autumn Avenue and Kingstown Way (See **Photograph 1**). Summer Street, laid out over an existing Indian path in 1665 and known as the Bay Path or "Old Massachusetts Path," served for several centuries as the main road from Boston to Plymouth. The 1926 Department of Public Safety card (at the Massachusetts State Archives) listed the address of Tarkiln School as "Boston Road." In 1931, the highway was rerouted, southward from Tarkiln School, away from Summer Street and along a new street, Kingstown Way. Together, Summer Street north of Tarkiln School and Kingstown Way to its south are known today as Massachusetts State Highway 53. South of Tarkiln School, a narrow triangular concrete and grass island separates Summer Street and Kingstown Way. The island is terminated to the south by a pair of travel lanes, which allow for easier turns between these two streets than the acute-angle intersection where they meet in front of Tarkiln School.

Part of the rural nature of the neighborhood can be seen in the group of a half-dozen turkey farms along Route 53, dating back to its days as a main road from Boston to Cape Cod, which sometimes gave this stretch of road the nickname "Turkey Row." Immediately southwest of the multi street intersection and visible from Tarkiln School is Bongi's Turkey Farm, 414 Kingstown Way. The three-generation family farm complex includes a takeout store, turkey growing sheds, processing facilities, and houses for the farmers. According to the company website, Tony and Anna Bongiorno bought the seven-acre farm for \$400 in the early 1940s; for the last fifty years the family has continued to operate it. In the 1950s, the turkey farmers and their workers would hold community potluck dinners at Tarkiln School.

Despite this moderate-scale agriculture, the mature forest setting and the nearby swamps, lakes, ponds, and cranberry bogs maintain a rural character along Summer Street and Route 53. The Tarkiln School lot itself is surrounded by low-density, 20th-century residential development on relatively large lots, fronting on Summer Street, on Chandler Street behind Tarkiln School, or on short nearby cul-de-sacs such as Gideon's Road or Eli's Lane. Only three of the houses on this stretch of Summer Street were thought worth surveying in the 2000 comprehensive survey, and none of these is contiguous. These three Cape-form houses were built by members of the extended Chandler family in the 19th century, when this was a sparsely settled area. South of Tarkiln School is the Jesse Chandler House (MHC #326), ca. 1820, at 95 Summer Street. North of Tarkiln is the Eli Chandler House (MHC #328), ca. 1834, at 317 Summer Street. Both are Federal in detail. Across Summer Street and just to the north of the Eli Chandler House is the Elbridge Chandler House

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(MHC #329), a Greek Revival-style Cape, ca.1845. In general, residential infill in the neighborhood around these older houses has been low-scale suburban rather than heavily linear.

Tarkiln School Exterior

The Tarkiln School building is not aligned with compass directions, but faces southwest towards Summer Street and sits back about 200 feet from the street. For the purposes of this nomination, the Summer Street facade will be called the western elevation. This usage accords with the plans and elevations drawn up by Menders, Torrey & Spencer, which accompany the nomination.

The Tarkiln School building has an irregular massing and plan (See **Photograph 2**). This form is the result of four different building plans, basically expressible as four rectangles: the 27-by-40-foot south wing (the 1871 original building), the 27-by-46-foot north wing (the 1908 building), the 20-by-30-foot connector (1926), and the 25-by-14-foot kitchen/storage wing. The end-gabled wings are raised on granite slabs (south) or fieldstone foundations (north) above crawl spaces. The cross-gabled connector has a full basement with board-formed concrete walls. The leanto kitchen has a concrete base with a crawl space beneath it. The floor level of the original south wing is nine inches below the subsequent additions. The building is wood framed and covered with narrow clapboards except on the eastern end, where the south wing is sheathed in shingles and the kitchen leanto appears to be covered in plywood. The roof of the entire building is covered with asphalt shingles. Aluminum gutters, several with downspouts missing, are attached to the three main wings, but not the leanto.

The oldest part of Tarkiln School is the southern wing (See **Photograph 3**). Its facade, towards Summer Street, is front gabled with corner pilasters topped with capitals that support three-part entablatures, which, in turn, support gable end returns. The main decorative element is a large fanlight-shaped vent in the gable, with a wide applied molding. A single central window lights the facade, fitted with large protective board shutters. The shutter framework, affixed to the exterior of the boards, includes Z-braces which form a diamond shape when the shutters are closed. A simple two-by-four window hood is supported by three pairs of scroll brackets. A large wooden signboard, centered between the window and vent, reads "TARKILN COMMUNITY CENTER" (See **Photograph 4**). The single current door in this wing, to the south of the window, has a similar hood with simple replacement brackets. The transom light above the front door has been covered and a contemporary six-paneled fire door (with crash bar) installed. A small rectangular dateboard by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society is placed high between the front door and window and reads, "TARKILN SCHOOL 1871 D.R.H.S." The front landing platform, a later replacement, has a simple plank baluster railing and is reached by three steps from beneath the center window. The foundation slabs are parged.

While not as decorative, the rest of the south wing has a number of distinctive design elements. The side walls of the southern wing share the pilasters and the wide, divided-fascia trim board. The northern wall has two windows with hoods supported by three pairs of double scroll brackets and board shutters similar to the front window, although these windows are slightly narrower and the shutters a simpler figure-8 pattern. An air conditioner is set high in the wall between the windows. The south wall has a bank of three windows set under a single plank hood, supported by six pairs of scroll brackets (See **Photograph 5**). These 2/2 sash windows appear to be original. The shingled rear wall of the southern wing is blank except for a single shuttered opening high in the northern side of the end gable, which provides access to the attic (See **Photograph 6**).

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The northern wing of Tarkiln School was designed as a mirror image of the southern wing by its architect and has been maintained to continue the illusion. This twin stands parallel to the original wing, and its gable end begins in line with its predecessor, although the rear extends six feet further to the east. The corner pilasters, entablature, gable end returns, and central window with diamond-pattern shutters appear identical. The plain board door hoods and window hoods, however, do not have supporting brackets. The lunette molding in the gable has a simpler profile and is topped with an outsized decorative keystone. The southern wall of this wing has two windows identical to the single front window, each covered with diamond-pattern board shutters. The northern wall has two window openings with functioning diamond-patterned shutters, and plywood inserts indicating that the wall between these windows once held two similar windows (See **Photograph 7**). The eastern wall of this wing has the corner pilasters, entablature, and gable end returns, but otherwise is blank except for the kitchen addition.

The connector is a simple gabled structure that links the two pre-existing buildings, the peaks of its gables ending atop the slope of each wing, just below the ridgelines (See **Photograph 6**). The slope of this roof was designed to match that of the wider wings, according to the blueprints. A large, square, red-brick chimney with a vented flat cap rises through the rear (eastern) slope of the roof, centered between the wings. The facade (western wall) of the connector has four equally spaced small windows, fitted with board shutters with the figure-8 pattern boarding that copies the north wall windows of the south wing. Instead of the plank hoods with brackets, though, these windows have simple decorative crown lintels (See **Photograph 8**). These 6/6 sash windows appear to be original. Four small rectangular windows light the basement here, the two center windows opening into a shallow window well. The rear (eastern) wall of the connector has two window openings now covered with plywood, and a single basement-level rectangular window on the northern end. The connector has a six-foot-wide southern wall, where it juts out from the back of the shorter southern wing. A single simple pilaster wraps this corner, and a doorway with a flat-board surround opens out of it, currently onto a disabled-access ramp. Another element extends from the eastern wall of the connector: a basement staircase hall with a south-facing doorway and a shed roof that drops sharply, following the descent of the stairs. The resultant triangular east staircase wall, covered in clapboards, is partly obscured by a large wooden tool storage box affixed to it.

The newest part of the building is the kitchen/storage/serving room, a simple plywood-walled lean-to addition. It has small, irregular rectangular windows, now blocked, high in the north and south walls. A serving window with side-hinged shutters occupies the southern end of the eastern facade, with a simple platform for customers to wait while being served. Exterior access is through a doorway in the southern wall of the kitchen, accessible by a simple platform. In addition to the stove and refrigerator, the kitchen has a few built-in cabinets.

Tarkiln School Interior

Like the exterior, the interior of Tarkiln is best described wing by wing, in order of age. The southern wing is one large room, except for the west end, which contains a small entry vestibule, stage, and storage closet. The entry vestibule has wainscoting that rises to eye level; the walls above are plaster, with a tin ceiling. The stage is raised one step above the main room, with an undecorated board proscenium. Pressed tin panels cover the ceiling above the storage closet and part of the stage. The storage closet is a remnant of the former matching entry vestibule. The classroom has narrow board flooring; chalkboard frames and trays and the original narrow-boarded chestnut wainscoting are still in place on the remaining three sides. The wainscoting rises to the level of the window sills and is topped with a cap molding. Pressed tin panels cover the upper wall in the eastern end, around where the stove once sat. Three large 2/2, double-hung, wooden

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sash windows punctuate the south wall, tied together with a continuous board lintel. Several of the narrower paired 2/2 window sashes in the north wall have been replaced by metal 1/1 sashes. The window interior trim on the west and north sides is original, with eared lintels that slightly overhang the sides. These lintel caps rise slightly toward the center—to a triangular pediment peak—indicative of Greek Revival style. The front (west) window sash is a recent metal replacement in both wings. The room has a drop ceiling with box fluorescent lights, covering a lath and plaster ceiling above. A short ramp leads up from the northeast corner of the main room into the rear connector hallway. The doorway to the corridor beyond is fitted with two swinging half-doors with Ives Rota closers.

The south wing attic, accessible only from the rear exterior hatch, has no ridgeline but a series of four king-post face trusses. Though made from sawn timbers, they are joined using older construction techniques that would have been outmoded by 1871, having no rod, strap, or bolt reinforcements. The king post heads are clasped between the upper ends of the principal rafters, to which they are also joined by mortise-and-tenon joints secured with wooden pegs. Cross braces run from near the base of the kingpost to the middle of the principal rafters, creating a diamond shape within the larger triangular truss. Trenched purlins are held in place with pegs. Two common rafters are interspersed between each pair of principal rafters. By contrast, both the north wing and connector attics have modern roof framing of 2 x 6 or 2 x 8 rafters and ceiling joists.

The northern wing has a two-part entry: an entry vestibule that opens eastward into a slightly larger hall. A second original doorway opens from the entry vestibule southward into what was most recently a nursery. This two-part entry appears to retain all of its original interior finish, including an eared architrave trim on all four doors that includes plain square corner blocks and top and side rails with raised bead edges. The walls in the entry are covered with tall vertical wainscoting, with a decorative cap, which extends up to within a foot of the top of the door (See **Photograph 9**). Pressed tin panels extend from the wainscoting upwards and across the ceiling, including a multilevel egg-and-dart ceiling cornice of interesting complexity. The doors inside the vestibule are the original seven-panel doors. Originally a similar entry occupied the southwest corner of this wing, with service spaces between, including the furnace and coal rooms. After 1926 this middle space was converted to the teacher's room. Today these spaces have been combined into one room, most recently used as a nursery. The load-bearing north-south wall that separated these three western end rooms from the classroom remains, as do some elements of the original woodwork. As in the south wing, this classroom floor is hardwood. The window sashes in this wing are 8/8 replacements. Most of the finishes in the classroom are of recent vintage and include wood-grain plywood paneling and wallpaper. A small vestibule remains in the southeast corner of the room, leading to the kitchen to the east and the connector to the south. The architraves of both southeast-corner doors include the Greek Revival-style, square-corner-block pattern trim.

The connector contains a single long corridor, along the eastern wall, which leads to the south wing and southeast exterior door. The chimney stack ascends through the middle of this wing, with closets on either side that open into the hall. The north closet has a built-in cupboard. Most of the wing, however, is occupied by the boys' and girls' restrooms to the west. The plaster walls, woodwork (including distinctive tall mopboards), and the double-hung 6/6 sash windows in the hall and restrooms appear to be original. The plaster ceiling in the lavatories is failing in places, exposing the lath beneath. Most of the lavatory fixtures also appear to be original, dating to the 1926 construction. Ventilation shafts for the basement furnace jut out from the north and south walls of the connector; they appear as empty rectangles on the floor plan. The southeast corridor door to the exterior ramp is a contemporary replacement with a crash bar.

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Duxbury (Plymouth)MA

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The basement beneath the connector has board-formed concrete walls and contains the old boiler and storage. Access is from the east down an exterior staircase; the staircase has been enclosed in a wood frame topped with a shed roof. The brick base of the chimney stack occupies the center of the basement room. The concrete slab floor of the connector above is supported by steel I-beams and lally columns. Stored items in the basement include a number of paneled interior and exterior doors and five old window frames, which may be original to Tarkiln. Shelves on the north and south ends of this basement room support the foundations of the wings. There is no access to the crawl spaces beneath the north and south wings and kitchen.

The 1951 kitchen addition includes the kitchen and a second smaller room to the north, a storage room with two doors that both open into the kitchen. It has built-in cabinets, a stove, and refrigerator.

Changes to Tarkiln School

Historic photographs indicate a number of changes to the Tarkiln School building since the early 20th century, as do the surviving 1908 and 1926 blueprints (to the extent that the building was actually constructed to those specifications). Most of the changes appear to have taken place during the period of significance, as the building was converted from a school to a community center and served as such for nearly a decade. Photographs show that originally each wing had two facade entries, one for the boys and one for the girls, rather than the single doors extant today. Each had an entry platform that stretched the full width of the building. Photographs also seem to indicate that the original exterior shutters were louvered.

The greatest change in interior configuration occurred in 1926, when the connector was added. The former heating facilities in both early wings were removed at that time. The only present indication of the location of the stove in the original building is the remnant of the chimney stack encased in the eastern wall. No trace remains of the furnace room in the western end of the north wing. Historic photographs show that each wing had a brick chimney along its center ridge, although the 1908 wing chimney was larger and at the opposite end than the chimney of its "twin." The window locations for the sides and rear of the buildings at present do not match White's elevations or Parker's plans, and either were not built as drawn or were subsequently altered. If they were altered, the change may have occurred during the period of significance. A picture of the Tarkiln Grammar School Class of 1932 shows that much of the interior detail remains from the period of significance.

Tarkiln School Grounds—Current Conditions

The Tarkiln School is set on a 5.75 acre lot which includes twin baseball fields, twin tennis courts, a memorial park, and several small support buildings. No remnants of stone farm walls exist anywhere on the lot, and all the perimeter stockade fences stand on the neighboring lots and appear to have been erected by neighbors. The front or western half of the Tarkiln School lot is lightly developed. The northwestern corner is mature woodland and shows no signs of any development history. A ten-foot-wide cart path leads from the rear of the school through the woodland to the northwest corner of the baseball diamonds. However, it is a mowed feature rather than an actual graveled path.

Access to the building is by an informal horseshoe-shaped **Front Driveway (Map Detail B)**, without curbing, of bituminous concrete and gravel. An undated assessor's map in the Plymouth County offices, which shows the footprint of the twin schools before the connector was built, indicates that the original one-acre lot extended generally from near the

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Tarkiln School
Duxbury (Plymouth)MA

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rear of the twin Tarkiln Schools in parallel lines to Summer Street. Because the building is set so far back from the street, the Front Driveway occupies nearly all of that original one-acre lot. Although no historic maps or pictures indicate its presence or original shape, it is likely that this important circulation system dates to the construction of Tarkiln School in 1871 and was macadamized early in the 20th century. For the purposes of this nomination, the front driveway is a contributing structure.

Although the tennis courts, playgrounds, and baseball fields include a number of smaller noncontributing structures, they do not detract from the overall integrity of Tarkiln School. The southwestern corner of the lot contains the twin **Tennis Courts (Map Detail C)**, ca. 1999, on a single concrete pad and surrounded by a high chain-link fence. The courts are surrounded, in turn, by mature trees on all four sides. The tennis courts may have been built or rebuilt from the 1999 rehabilitation of the Tarkiln site as a town recreation area.

The eastern half of the lot contains twin baseball diamonds, arranged so that their home plates are adjacent to each other, near the center of the lot. At least part of the land on which these baseball diamonds were built was cleared by laborers from the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Known as the **Jerome B. Dewing Field (Map Detail D)** since 1999, these two baseball diamonds are in excellent shape and have been completely rebuilt recently, configured for Little League play. The quarter-circle playing area is surrounded by a chain-link fence and backstop. Constructed as an integrated system, the chain-link fence has a padded top railing to reduce injuries. The tall Backstops are integrated into the fence behind home plate. Also built as part of this integrated system are the four Dugouts, located along the first and third base lines, with concrete ground pads, chain-link sides, and flat metal roofs. Two manual Scoreboards occupy the farthest corners of the lot, outside the chain-link fence and aligned with the home plate/pitcher's mound/second-base axis. They each share the legend "DUXBURY YOUTH BASEBALL." Four moveable, five-bench metal bleachers are available for spectators. For the purposes of this nomination, the Jerome B. Dewing Field counts as a contributing site. Along the eastern boundary of the lot, where the two quarter-circle fences of the baseball diamonds come together, is the **Electric Shed (Map Detail E)**. Built in 1999 to house an electric panel, this building is eight feet by six feet, with a shed roof, locking door, and vertical-board siding. Despite this electric shed, the fields do not have permanent light poles. Immediately south of the shed is the Flagpole. This short aluminum flagpole has a plastic sleeve covering the base. Given its position, this flagpole is likely not a replacement for a previous flagpole.

At the western edge of Dewing Field, near the home plates of the twin diamonds, is **Peter B. Sinnott Memorial Park (Map Detail F; see Photograph 10)**. The park is announced by the molded plastic Sinnott Sign, suspended between two pipes, which names the park and recounts usage rules. At the base of a nearby tree is the small bronze Sinnott Plaque, bolted to a concrete base a few inches above the ground. The plaque reads "PETER B. SINNOTT MEMORIAL PARK/FATHER—TEACHER—COACH—FRIEND/1986." Close by, near the Dewing Field chain-link fence, the Dewing Plaque is bolted to a concrete base. The plaque reads "Jerome B. Dewing Field 1929-1999/A cofounder and coach of/Duxbury Little League/A supporter and friend of the/Youth of Duxbury." A ca. 1985 Drinking Fountain, a cylindrical concrete form with a pebble finish topped with a metal bowl, stands nearby. A post and cable fence, erected since the period of significance, prevents automobiles from parking too close to the memorial park.

Between Dewing Field and the twin tennis courts are several minor support elements. The late-1960s **Wood Shed (Map Detail G)** is a 10- by 12-foot side-gabled, wood-frame storage shed with horizontal boarding (vertical boarding in the gables). It is set on concrete post footings. A pipe framed Batting Cage stands immediately to its south (See Photograph 11). A contemporary Swing Set (Map Detail H) stand further to the south. Due to its constrained location and distance from the school building, this swing set would appear to be a recent addition to the site to accommodate younger siblings of the youth baseball league, rather than a replacement swing for the former Tarkiln School playground.

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Continuation Sheet**

**Tarkiln School
Duxbury (Plymouth)MA**

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Changes to the Grounds

Little documentation appears to exist for the configuration of the grounds during the period of significance, apart from the assessor's map evidence, which establishes the circulation system of the front driveway, and the school committee reports, which establish the 1935 effort to clear trees and brush for a baseball diamond in the southeast corner of the lot, with WPA labor. Apart from these two general site configurations, most of the landscape elements at Tarkiln School date since the period of significance.

Condition

Generally the Tarkiln building is in good overall shape. According to the 2005-2006 structural report, all visible structural framing elements are in good condition, although water infiltration from the decayed roofing, flashing, and gutters may soon be a problem. The old asphalt shingles need replacement and the chimney needs repointing. The failing aluminum gutters, when replaced, should be replaced with a gutter system with a more historically accurate profile. The foundations are in good condition, but require some repair. In general, Tarkiln School is in good condition.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are located on the school property, sites may be present. One ancient site is located in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property represent some locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The school is located on a level to moderately sloping, well-drained outwash plain. Soils in the area are sandy and formed in thick deposits of sand and gravel that are free of stones. The nearest wetlands, however, are well over 1,000 feet from the school, a locational characteristic that reduces the overall potential for this location. Given the above information, construction of the school and athletic facilities, and the moderate size of the parcel, a low to moderate potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American sites on the school property.

A moderate to high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the school property. Construction features may exist in the vicinity of foundations, footings, and additions to the school built in 1908, 1926, and 1951. Artifacts may also exist around the school and in features that identify architectural characteristics of the school and activities conducted in the area. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) and structural evidence of outbuildings might survive in close proximity to the school. Lavatory construction occurred in 1926, indicating the potential for locating privies prior to that date. A late 19th-century wood/storage shed (no longer extant) was known to exist on the property. Water to the school was supplied by a spring located beneath the school. Potential also exists for locating structural evidence of tar kilns, from which the school derived its name, in the area. No specific evidence exists for historic land use of the property prior to construction of the school in 1871. In 1833, John Ford's map shows the current school site as forested, with only a dozen or so widely scattered farmsteads within a mile of the schoolhouse. An 1879 map that illustrates the school for the first time continues to show the school neighborhood as sparsely settled.

(end)

Tarkiln School
Name of Property

Plymouth, 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)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1871-1959

Significant Dates

1871 – original date of construction

1908 – north wing added

1926 – connector added

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

White, H. Dennison (1908)

Parker, L.F. (1926)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Duxbury Room, Duxbury Public Library

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8. ARCHITECT/BUILDER (cont.) : Works Progress Administration (WPA)

Summary Statement

Tarkiln School, a single-story, wood-frame Greek Revival/Italianate building in the Tarkiln neighborhood of Duxbury, Massachusetts, meets National Register Criterion A at the local level for its importance to the town's history of education. Tarkiln School is a physical representation of the social change and educational reform that the aftermath of the Civil War brought to even isolated hamlets in Massachusetts. The U-shaped building began as a simple, rectangular, one-room school constructed in 1871, the year that marks the beginning of the period of significance. A second similar rectangular building was built next to the first building in 1908. In 1926, the two buildings were connected on their eastern end by a third rectangular structure. Both of these additions represent subsequent campaigns for educational reform in Duxbury. This property also meets National Register Criterion A at the local level for its importance to the town's history of entertainment/recreation. Following the comprehensive reorganization of the town's schools in 1926, Duxbury bought the woodlot surrounding Tarkiln School in 1927. The town converted the lot to athletic fields in the 1930s and used Tarkiln as a school until 1949. Reopened in 1951 as the Tarkiln Youth Center, the building and its playing fields have remained a social center in otherwise rural western Duxbury. Finally, the building meets National Register Criterion C at the local level for its importance to the town's architecture. The 1871 wing is important as a surviving one-room Greek Revival schoolhouse with Italianate trim. The 1908 "twin" was designed by Duxbury artist Herbert D. White, and the 1927 connector by L.F. Parker of Buzzards Bay. Clearing for the school fields was conducted by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935. Tarkiln School is still owned by the Town of Duxbury and continues to support public uses. Tarkiln School is generally in good condition, is only slightly altered since its period of significance (1871-1959), and has historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Setting: Duxbury and the Tarkiln Neighborhood

Duxbury is located in Plymouth County, on the Atlantic Ocean shoreline 33 miles south of Boston. Bordered by Marshfield on the north, Pembroke on the west, and Kingston on the south, Duxbury covers 37.63 square miles (23.76 square miles in land area). The town is built on rocky and sandy ridges covered with forests and dotted with numerous ponds, marshes, swamps, and cranberry bogs, many of which empty by short rivers into Duxbury Bay. The population is densest along the shoreline and secondarily along various inland roadways, which sometimes formed small villages at their crossings. The first English settlers in the area now known as Duxbury arrived from Plymouth as early as 1626, and in 1632 they petitioned to become Plymouth's Second Parish. In 1637 Duxbury received a charter to become the second town in the Plymouth Colony; it was named Duxbury in honor of Captain Myles Standish, whose English ancestral home was Duxbury Hall. The early settlers were primarily farmers, although fishing and shipbuilding became equally important after the Revolutionary War. During the winters, sailors turned to piecework boot and shoe making, while other small-scale industries were based on local resources: waterpower (milling), clams and other shellfish, and cranberries. Between the War of 1812 and the Civil War, shipbuilding and shipping were the primary town industries, led by entrepreneurs such as Ezra "King Caesar" Weston. Industry was centered in Duxbury Village, an area now designated on the NRHP as the Old Shipbuilders' Historic District. The limitations of Duxbury's shallow harbor and the rise of steam-powered ships in the 1840s, however, eventually overtook Duxbury's production of sailing ships. Duxbury gained a brief moment of international fame when the intercontinental telegraph cable between France and America was pulled ashore through Duxbury Marsh in 1869. In the decade after the Civil War, Duxbury discovered a new identity as a place for summer

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homes; tourism and summer beachgoers have been a sustaining town industry ever since. Town leaders completed the construction of the Duxbury and Cohasset Railroad in 1871, which brought many summer residents (until the last train left in 1939). While this railroad line is now gone, the Old Colony Line commuter rail has a station in neighboring Kingston. Route 3, the main highway from Boston to Cape Cod, bisects Duxbury. It opened in 1962, reducing considerably the former lengthy automobile commute to Boston via what is currently Route 3A and made Duxbury a commuter suburb. Well-known historic sites in the town preserve elements of the Plymouth Colony history (such as the John Alden House and Myles Standish State Park) and later shipbuilding history (such as the King Caesar House). The 2000 census recorded 14,248 inhabitants, almost double the 1970 population.¹

Tarkiln School derives its name from its rural neighborhood, an area known, by the middle of the 17th century, for the production of tar. Duxbury historian Dorothy Wentworth notes that this stretch of Summer Street in Duxbury was laid out in 1665 over an existing Indian path and was known as the Bay Path or "Old Massachusetts Path." It served as a main road from Boston to Plymouth. Wentworth reports "This old path is still in use, with a few changes made to straighten it, and is one of the very few highways to be so little changed."² The first property boundaries recorded in the area, in 1677, include "the old tar pit" along the road as one of the landmarks, showing that tar production here dates to well before 1677. The tar was a byproduct derived from charcoal. The oaks and pines of the surrounding forest were burned to heat forges that would smelt bog-iron, which was used, initially, for the production of hollowware for local use and later for shipbuilding. The resulting charcoal was then sold or turned into tar, used primarily for shipbuilding.³

Settlers moved into the area early in the 18th century. In the "second division" of 1712, Duxbury split up these former common lands in southwestern Duxbury, creating 168 lots of 52 acres. Each of the 168 families in town received a lot by random lottery, causing intensive land speculation and subsequent settlement.⁴ Later in the 18th and 19th centuries, ephemeral villages developed along the Bay Path road. North of the school site along the road was Fordville, and south along the road was Chandlerville, both regions of scattered houses belonging to members of a single extended family. Chandlerville produced fur hats, and one Chandler family ran a tavern at the intersection of East and Summer Street, which provided food and lodging to Boston travelers. While the families gradually moved away, these village names disappeared. Today, neighborhood identity rests most securely on the name "Tarkiln" and the school which has long represented it.

Duxbury maps further detail this historical pattern of development of the Tarkiln area. The 1795 Duxbury map shows Summer and South streets in their current locations, but it reveals no other details in this region. John Ford's 1833 Duxbury map shows an earlier Tarkiln school building, (not the present lot or building, but located south of the current building, within the "V" formed by the branching off of Chandler Street from Summer Street). In that map, the current site for Tarkiln School—a quarter mile farther northwest along the road—is still forested. The land still farther north along the road had, by then, been cleared for farming. Although Winter Street and the Old Meeting House Road (later East Street) appear for the first time on this map, only a dozen or so widely scattered farmhouses lie within a mile of the schoolhouse.

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¹ "Old Shipbuilders' Historic District," NRHP nomination, 1972; E. Waldo Long, ed., *The Story of Duxbury 1637-1937* (Duxbury: Duxbury Tercentenary Committee, 1937); Katherine Pillsbury, Robert Hale, and Jack Post, eds., *The Duxbury Book 1637-1987* (Duxbury: Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, 1987).

² Dorothy Wentworth, *Settlement and Growth of Duxbury 1628-1870* (Duxbury: Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, 1973), 18.

³ Dorothy Wentworth, *Settlement and Growth of Duxbury 1628-1870*, 61-62.

⁴ Tony Kelso, "O'Neil Farm, the Early Years," *Duxbury Clipper* 28 April 2004; see also Tony Kelso, "The Wild Lands of the Southwest," *Duxbury Clipper* 5 November 2003.

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The 1879 map is the first to show Tarkiln School in its current location, although the building is designated by its official name, "School No. 4." The surrounding neighborhood is still sparsely settled. The 1903 map shows Autumn Avenue in existence for the first time, though it continues east of its current terminus, crossing Summer Street north of the school and ending at Chandler Street. The 1903 map labels neighborhoods for the first time, designating both Tarkiln and Fordville; the earlier usage of Chandlerville has already disappeared as other families now occupied the houses. Henry A. Fish's 1923 map of Duxbury shows that Summer Street has been macadamized, and the portion of Autumn Avenue between Summer and Chandler streets has fallen to the level of a path. Kingstown Way, the third street which today intersects at Tarkiln School, appears to have been laid out in 1931.⁵ It first appears in maps in the 1935 surveys for the 1941 USGS topographic map.⁶ In 1931 the Massachusetts state highway (today State Route #53), which follows Summer Street southeast from the Pembroke border to the Tarkiln School intersection, was rerouted south of Tarkiln School from Summer Street to veer more directly southward along Kingstown Way. After crossing the town line in Kingston, Route 53 connects with Route 3A near its interchange with Route 3.

While the neighborhood has retained its rural character, the gradual fragmentation and transference of the larger early farms has presented opportunities for growth and change, including, incidentally, the replacement of the old neighborhood school on a larger lot in 1871. Reading the Duxbury maps and other literature in a larger context, architectural historian Karen Davis observes that the Tarkiln-Summer Street neighborhood began as large farms in the 18th century that were gradually subdivided in the 19th century when farmers began turning to shoemaking for winter sustenance. English families such as the Chandlers, Fords, and Sampsons were gradually replaced by Irish surnames in the mid 19th century, and by Italians and Scandinavians later in the century.⁷ Davis documented three surviving 19th-century Cape houses on this stretch of Summer Street with B-Forms. All were thought to be built by members of the large extended Chandler family. To the south of Tarkiln School (MHC #327), the Jesse Chandler House (MHC #326) at 95 Summer Street—immediately southeast of the corner of Summer and East streets—is a Federal-style Cape house, ca. 1820.⁸ Four lots to the north of Tarkiln School on the same side of the road, at 317 Summer Street, is a house built by Jesse Chandler's son Eli. The Eli Chandler House (MHC #328) is a ca. 1834 cape house of similar Federal style. Across Summer Street and just to the north of the Eli Chandler House is the Elbridge Chandler House (MHC #329), a Greek Revival-style Cape house built about 1845. Elbridge Chandler's wife, Martha, was sister of Eli Chandler. All three houses eventually passed out of the Chandler family, with the subsequent generation of owners Irish or English. Through much of the 20th century, both the Eli Chandler and Elbridge Chandler houses were owned by members of an Italian family, the DeLorenzos. In 1871, as part of this fragmentation and succession, Elbridge Chandler—a selectman and one of the wealthiest men in the area—and his wife Martha Chandler sold Duxbury a one-acre lot carved from their larger landholdings along Summer Street for construction of Tarkiln School.

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⁵ Duxbury School Committee, 1931 Report.

⁶ For maps of this region of Duxbury, see *A Map of Duxbury, Mass., Surveyed by John Ford Jr., 1833* (Boston: Pendleton's Lithog.); *Town of Duxbury, Mass., 1879* (all are available in the Duxbury Room of the Duxbury Free Library; the 1879 map is reproduced in both Forgit and Long); *Atlas of Surveys of Plymouth County and Town of Cohasset, Norfolk Co. Massachusetts* (Springfield: J. L. Richards Co., 1903); Henry A. Fish, *Map of Duxbury*, Duxbury Room. Benjamin Alden's 1795 map of Duxbury, in the collection of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society (and reproduced in Long), does not show any details in this rural neighborhood. Also useful are the USGS maps available online: "Historic USGS Maps of New England and New York" through the Dimond Library at the University of New Hampshire, which include the 1941 Duxbury Quadrangle (Surveyed 1935, 1926) and the version of the same revised to 1947: (<http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm>).

⁷ Karen L. Davis, "Duxbury Communitywide Survey—Phase 1: Final Report," 2001.

⁸ The DUX numbers refer to Form B-Building survey sheets recorded by Karen L. Davis for the Duxbury Historical Commission in January 2001 and filed with the Massachusetts Historical Commission in Boston, which document these buildings.

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Criterion A: Education

Duxbury and Its Schools

Schooling in Duxbury began over three hundred years ago, with infrequent classes presented by the minister of the parish, as his duties allowed. The Court of the Colony began a free school in Plymouth in 1670. In 1683, Duxbury set aside money to pay Rev. Wiswall to conduct a school for the young men of the town, which he apparently did until his death in 1700. In Duxbury, the first schoolhouses were "built on Elm Street and corner of Tremont and Harrison Sts. in 1714 and 1715, respectively."⁹ The Elm Street schoolhouse served the western villages of Tarkiln, Tinkertown, and Island Creek, and was built on land donated by Benjamin Chandler. In 1715 the town appropriated money for schooling and hired a schoolmaster. Two decades later, in 1735, the town meeting voted to divide Duxbury into four districts and hire two schoolmasters; each taught half a year at one of the four schoolhouses. These early schools were financed first by revenues from fishing, and then by land grants from the General Court.¹⁰

Town historian E. Waldo Long memorably wrote, "The history of education in Duxbury is a story of constant effort toward improvement," but even he admitted that many advancements were spurred by state regulations. The legislature decreed district schools in 1789; in 1826 another law prescribed school committees to address the problems of isolated district schools. The 1869 legislature abolished these tiny independent districts across the Commonwealth; at that time Duxbury had twelve district schools which came under town-wide jurisdiction. Duxbury gradually consolidated these ungraded district schools.¹¹

In the 20th century, Duxbury gradually closed the remaining outlying schools and concentrated its educational resources on a single campus on St. George Street. The oldest building there is the Wright Memorial Library (1909; renovated for the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society in 2006-2007), which replaced the previous library on the same site. It was recently listed on the National Register. Much of this neighborhood was part of the Wright family estate. Directly across St. George Street from the Wright Memorial Library, on the site of the former Wright house complex, is the Eben Howes Ellison Building, the current Duxbury High School (1974). Directly across a driveway to the southeast of the library, the building complex of the Duxbury Middle School and Alden Elementary (1949, with 1954 and later additions) continues southwestward in a broad arc, with parking and recreational fields directly south of the library. At the end of this arc is the first Duxbury High School (1926 and 1952), which after various other educational uses was renovated as the (third) Duxbury Free Library, opening in 1996. The Wright Library on St. George Street reopened in 2007 as the home of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society.¹² Only Tarkiln's nearby replacement, Chandler School—which opened as an elementary school in 1973 and today houses the town's pre-kindergarten through second grade classes—remains in the western section of Duxbury as an active school building.¹³

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⁹ "Duxbury," MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report, 1981.

¹⁰ Justin Winsor, *A History of the Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, with Genealogical Registers* (Boston: Crosby & Nichols, 1849), 71-74.

¹¹ E. Waldo Long, *The Story of Duxbury 1637-1937* (Duxbury: Duxbury Tercentenary Committee, 1937), 15-29.

¹² Timothy Orwig, "Wright Memorial Library" National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2005.

¹³ "The Duxbury Schools," Marshfield-Duxbury League of Women Voters, 1973.

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Tarkiln School

In 1871, the Duxbury school committee purchased a one-acre woodlot on Summer Street in the Tarkiln neighborhood in order to build a new Tarkiln School. The previous school lot, a small triangle of 1/3 an acre at the intersection of Chandler and Summer Streets, would have been too small for expansion.¹⁴ The parallelogram-shaped lot purchased for \$40 in 1871 was carved out of a larger piece of woodland owned by Elbridge Chandler, measuring 11 rods by 14 rods and 14 links, and "situated on the easterly side of the road leading from George Baker to Elwood Sampson."¹⁵ Tarkiln School (the southern wing of the current structure) was built on this lot.

Although a series of official names have been connected to this neighborhood school, it has been colloquially known as Tarkiln School since at least the middle of the 19th century. In 1847, committee member Stephen Gifford complained, in a visit to the earlier Tarkiln School (then located a quarter mile to the south), that while physical conditions were acceptable, that the discipline was too rigid.¹⁶ Justin Winsor's 1849 town history specifies that "Tarkiln" designated both the neighborhood and the school district long before the current building was begun: "A village in the upper part [of Duxbury] is called Tarkiln, or Chandlertown, and forms a school district."¹⁷ According to official records, when constructed, this current Tarkiln building was known as School No. 4, and it is designated as such on the 1879 map of Duxbury. In 1869 Duxbury, eliminated its independent school districts, although it continued to refer to the buildings that remained as the "school in District 4" and, by 1871, "School No. 4." The School Committee Reports also refer to it as "Sunnyside," but that usage does not appear elsewhere. Given the pre-existing popular name of Tarkiln School, and the shifting official names, for the purposes of this nomination the property is designated as Tarkiln School.

In Duxbury, as in many other Massachusetts towns, the decade after the Civil War was a time of transformation, and this new spirit of reform manifested itself in school design. The Commonwealth passed statewide educational standards and enforced them by withholding funds from towns that did not meet the standards. One reform was the replacement of the autonomous districts by town-wide school governance in 1869. In the old district system, each district was controlled by a committee that ran the schools based on the available tax money. Smaller districts sometimes held classes until money for fuel and salaries ran out, and then closed for the year. The committees also hired and supervised teachers, sometimes hiring lesser qualified teachers at substandard pay. One or two families often dominated these small, insular district schools. In 1867, the *Twenty-ninth Report of the [Massachusetts] Board of Education* argued,

The district system has long clogged the progress of educational improvement in the towns where it has been suffered to remain. Reason and fact alike condemn it as a fruitful source of inconvenience and evils. It perpetuates poor school-houses, inefficient teachers, neighborhood feuds and jealousies. It prevents the equalization of school advantages, and stands in the way of a proper classification of pupils.

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¹⁴ Bailey and Keith, Surveyors, Duxbury MA Block I, undated (ca. 1927). This assessor's book in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds office shows a .37 acre lot (#27) at the corner, labeled "Old School House Lot."

¹⁵ Elbridge Chandler to the Inhabitants of Duxbury, Plymouth County Deeds Book 383, Page 18 (signed 19 May 1871, recorded 2 Dec. 1871). The larger woodlot had been in the Chandler family since at least 1800, and was known as "all that portion of the 'Grandmother Lot' so-called lying on the easterly side of Summer Street" (Henry Chandler to Nora and Manuel Andrade, Plymouth County Deeds Book 1483, Pages 45-46).

¹⁶ Quoted from school reports in E. Waldo Long, *The Story of Duxbury 1637-1937* (Duxbury: Duxbury Tercentenary Committee, 1937), 15-16.

¹⁷ Justin Winsor, *A History of the Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, with Genealogical Registers* (Boston: Crosby & Nichols, 1849), 12.

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In 1868, the state sped the dissolution of the district system by threatening to withhold state funding if any district within a particular town held classes for less than six months. The following year, Massachusetts abolished the remaining districts statewide, forcing each town to run its schools as a unified single system or go without state funding.

Duxbury complied by eliminating its districts, although the 1871 School Committee report makes clear that some townspeople resented the change:

Owing to the abolition of the District system, and the opposition of many people to the change . . . there has not always been that cordial co-operation with the Committee which could have been desired. One year ago many hoped that the Town would return to the District system, [a hope] which contributed somewhat to the difficulty of their becoming reconciled to the present system. . . . But the opposition seems to be gradually subsiding, and it is hoped that ere long there will be a union of feeling and effort in the cause of education among us."¹⁸

Although student absenteeism, partially attributable to the dissatisfaction of some parents, continued to be a serious problem, the 1871 report documented improvements, such as the increase in funding for teacher pay, voted by Town Meeting the previous year. The 1871 report did not discuss a major challenge that remained unmet: replacing the old Tarkiln schoolhouse.

Tarkiln School is a physical representation of that social change and reform that followed the Civil War in even isolated hamlets in Massachusetts. The Duxbury town meeting had voted in 1869 to build a new school in Tarkiln, but the new school did not materialize. The 1872 report notes, sarcastically, that those in charge "managed to do nothing, except some standing around. In 1870 the matter came up again; the year passed and nothing was done. In 1871 the town chose a building committee, and invested them with full power to furnish necessary school accommodations."¹⁹ As with other advancements, the construction of the new schoolhouse met with sustained resistance, even after it was finished. But in 1872 the school committee gave the new building high scores:

The school has been revolutionized in *less* than a year. It has become intelligent and attentive, tidy and attractive, and has rapidly advanced in its studies. All this well repays for the outlay that has been made. [But] the house has not been dedicated in consequence of the Town not accepting it. The only reason for not accepting the house, appears to be in consequence of some of our tax-payers not being able to see the necessity of a decent school-house."²⁰

The committee reported that they had "attended to [their] duty. The old house was sold at auction for \$55.00, which was considered a good price." They completed the schoolhouse in time so that it could be used during the 1871-1872 school year. Indignantly, they observed, "and *now* the town votes not to accept the doings of the Committee, after all the bills are approved, paid, and audited by the Town's Auditing Committee."²¹ The following year, the Town Meeting officially accepted the Tarkiln School.

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¹⁸ Duxbury School Committee Report, 1870-71, bound in the 1871 Duxbury Town Report.

¹⁹ Duxbury School Report 1872.

²⁰ Duxbury School Report 1872.

²¹ Duxbury School Report 1872.

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The 1871 school report did not specify who was responsible for designing or building the new Tarkiln School. Henry Wadsworth was chair of the building committee, and the town reimbursed him for the total costs. The 1871 Tarkiln School cost \$2,106.68, with funding coming from a \$2,000 town appropriation, the auction of the former Tarkiln building, and sale of the wood from the trees cut on the new school lot. Additionally, Duxbury paid \$245.90 for furniture and \$21.05 for a stove to outfit the new school.²² Teachers for the first year were A.W. Simmons, Ella J. Geary, and Susan B. Holmes, while the seller of the lot, Elbridge Chandler, taught one of the three terms in 1873.

The town reports for 1872 describe the new school:

The building is twenty-six by forty feet, with thirteen feet posts; built in the most substantial manner; a chimney with two flues from the foundation; one for smoke, the other for ventilation, in which are two registers, one near the ceiling, the other near the floor. Modern windows [are] hung with weights top and bottom; a hard pine floor of the best kind. The room is sheathed three feet high with chestnut, and furnished with desks and chairs for sixty pupils, with ample room for recitation platform, furnished with settees to seat a class of twenty scholars. There are ample blackboards, a modern desk for the use of the teacher, and three chairs for the accommodation of visitors. There are two entries seven feet square with an iron sink in each, and a pump in one that takes the purest water from a never failing spring, twelve feet below the surface of the ground. A small building twelve feet square, back of the house, furnishes ample accommodations for storing a years' [sic] supply of fuel, and other necessary shelter. Outside; the house is furnished in very plain modern style, painted and blinded. It stands back from the road about two hundred feet, with a level yard in front, of nearly an acre. Lot, underpinning, school-house, wood-house and furniture, all complete, at a reasonable expense.

The outlay no doubt looks large to a penurious person, and when we take the fact into consideration, the best school-house the town owned, was sold three years ago for the sum of one hundred and thirty-one dollars, there may be an appearance of extravagance. But it is only in appearance and not in fact[;] we have the satisfaction of knowing the house will compare favorably with those in surrounding towns, built at a higher cost for equal accommodations.²³

Duxbury's School Committee could be excused for being proud of its results. Still, the town had much more to accomplish in subsequent years, as the other school houses were, variously, "fair," "too small," "needs some repair to save it," "a nuisance," "barely tenatable," "dilapidated in the extreme," and "an imposition on a civilized community."²⁴ The following year, the forces of reform that began with the Tarkiln School campaign won another battle, as another building, School House 7, was replaced.

The construction in 1908 of the second freestanding school building at Tarkiln marked its transition from being solely a primary school to also hosting one of Duxbury's two grammar schools, as part of a campaign for reform through consolidation and grading (dividing the student body into grades). Tarkiln School and a half-dozen other one-room schools continued into the 20th century as ungraded primary schools. In 1907, new superintendent John DeMeyer laid out a comprehensive plan of reorganization, which concluded, "A new school house of at least three rooms should be erected

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²² Duxbury Town Report 1872.

²³ Duxbury School Report 1872. No trace of the original woodshed exists today.

²⁴ Duxbury School Report 1872.

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at Tarkiln, and the pupils of North Duxbury, Ashdod and Island Creek transported to it. Under those conditions a well organized graded system could be established in the place of our present small schools of seven grades each.²⁵ The 1908 Duxbury Town Meeting voted an appropriation of \$2,500 for a new school or addition at Tarkiln. The amount was very quickly found to be inadequate, and even the decision to simply add a second parallel building came in \$425 over the appropriation. "This [overrun]," the school committee reported, "was chiefly on account of the extra expense which the state laws require in heating new school houses."²⁶ H. Dennison White's 1908 floorplan shows that the north wing required a separate furnace room and coal bin, and that the partition walls nearest the furnace had to be built of brick.

While the 1871 Tarkiln building remained as a primary school, the 1908 building was designed as the grammar school for western Duxbury. Tarkiln Grammar School educated the sixth and seventh grades from the four western primary schools (Ashdod, Island Creek, North Duxbury, and Tarkiln), and the eighth grade from the overcrowded high school. At the end of 1908, Tarkiln School had 39 children in its primary school and 30 in its grammar school -- more students than at any other site in Duxbury. Only the two-room Village School, the primary school for eastern Duxbury, enrolled nearly as many students as Tarkiln, at 61; by comparison, only 34 attended the high school. The school committee reassigned teachers and updated lesson plans as part of the change: "The grammar pupils are now under grammar instructors and the teachers at the academy are relieved of the double duty of teaching both grammar and high school subjects."²⁷

Duxbury maintained most of its one-room schools through the next two decades, until in undertook a system-wide reorganization in 1926.²⁸ "The school plant of Duxbury is modern," a contemporary account boasted of the changes instituted in 1926. The reorganization was "believed by the superintendent of schools to have been a progressive step by which the number of school buildings were [sic] reduced from nine to three, permitting better grading."²⁹ The three schools which survived the reorganization into 1927 were Tarkiln and Village—now primary schools that served grades one through four, in the western and eastern halves of the town, respectively, and the new "high school," which served grades five through twelve. The 1926 reorganization also saw the closure of two private schools which had had a long tenure in Duxbury: the Powder Point School for Boys (founded 1886) and the Partridge Academy (founded 1844), which from 1881 until its close was partially funded by public dollars and had functioned for several decades as the high school.

The 1926 reorganization established the basic building configuration of the Tarkiln School as it currently exists, by connecting the two school rooms with a third building, which provided circulation and long-needed services: a single furnace and bathrooms. "Alterations were made in two study and recitation rooms, and the furnace room was turned into [other uses]. . . . The addition consists of a corridor connecting the two buildings, sanitary toilets and lavatories, and a basement with heating and pumping systems."³⁰ Instead of sometimes four grades to a room, Village and Tarkiln now had only two grades per room, "a distinct step in advance over the present conditions. . . . Tarkiln School has been added to and remodeled so that it is now a thoroughly up-to-date building, consisting of two school rooms, heating and ventilation plant and adequate sanitary facilities."³¹ With the new furnace in place, the older heating systems in the wings could be

(continued)

²⁵ Duxbury School Report 1907: 71.

²⁶ Duxbury School Report 1908.

²⁷ Duxbury School Report 1908.

²⁸ E. Waldo Long, *The Story of Duxbury 1637-1937* (Duxbury: Duxbury Tercentenary Committee, 1937), 15-29.

²⁹ Elroy S. Thompson, *History of Plymouth, Norfolk and Barnstable Counties Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing, 1928).

³⁰ Duxbury School Report, 1926: 121.

³¹ Duxbury School Report, 1926: 123.

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removed, along with their chimneys, and those spaces used for new purposes.

With six fewer buildings to maintain, Duxbury was able to address long-deferred issues at Tarkiln and the Village School. In 1928, the school committee reported that Tarkiln needed more than just the two coats of exterior paint it had received that year. The list of deficiencies, particularly for the older south wing, included the flooring, blackboards, patched sheet metal coverings, muresco (ceiling paint), and wall paint. Despite the arrival of the Great Depression, Duxbury completed many of these repairs by 1931: "At Tarkiln, the floor of the south building which had needed attention for a good while was brought to a level surface and new flooring put down. . . . The slate blackboards, which were given to us by Mr. Flannery of the Old Sailors' Home, were installed at the Point School and at Tarkiln."³²

Entertainment/Recreation

During the 1920s, Duxbury began to develop recreational opportunities for its schools, beginning at the high school but eventually extending to the two primary schools. Following the school reorganization of 1926, the following year the Town of Duxbury purchased the larger lot from which the Tarkiln School lot had been separated in 1871. This 4.8-acre lot, which surrounded the original lot on three sides, was purchased from Nora and Manuel Andrade of Providence, RI.³³ In 1931, the State Highway south of Tarkiln was redirected from Summer Street to a new route, Kingstown Way. This change spurred the school committee to begin landscaping the lot. Mr. Brett of the Town Planning Board suggested changes, according to the school report: "We . . . spent much time and money in regrading the lawns around [Tarkiln], laying out drives, and trimming up the trees which prevented a clear view of the school yard from the new road."³⁴

Extensive recreational development of this larger lot at Tarkiln does not appear to have occurred until a decade later, though, due to its heavily wooded nature. In 1935, Duxbury teamed with the New Deal's federal jobs program, the Works Progress Administration, to clear land for a playing field. The School Committee reported to the town that, "A WPA project now under way is employing a group of ten men to pull up trees and stumps and grade an area large enough for a baseball field at the southeast corner of the lot at Tarkiln. This project, if carried through to completion, should make a very fine community playground for the people of that section of town."³⁵ The process was a difficult one, and even though the scope was eventually reduced to clearing just a playground, funding ran out before the project could be completed: "This area was partly cleared, but because of the extreme cold weather of last winter, the work was not completed when the funds allotted were expended and as yet no more money has been available for the work."³⁶ The work was not resumed until later in the decade, when the superintendent asked for additional playground equipment at Tarkiln and urged that "the clearing of the grounds, started several years ago as a WPA project, should be carried to completion."³⁷ None of the sources that describe the work indicate whether the design of the fields was part of the WPA involvement.

(continued)

³² Duxbury School Report, 1931: 145.

³³ Nora and Manuel Andrade to the Inhabitants of Duxbury, Plymouth County Deeds Book 1527, Page 14, (recorded 16 June 1927). The Andrades had purchased the land from Henry Chandler two years previous (Henry Chandler to Nora and Manuel Andrade, Plymouth County Deeds Book 1483, Pages 45-46, recorded 18 February 1925). This deed describes the property as Parcel 14 in a 1909 deed, Emma C. Edson to Henry W. Chandler, Plymouth County Deeds Book 1013, Page 384. "Parcel 14" consisted of nine shares of a 14-acre family lot divided between the children of Peres & Rhoda Chandler, ca. 1800, which Wadsworth Chandler had sold to Elbridge Chandler in 1844.

³⁴ Duxbury School Report, 1931: 145.

³⁵ Duxbury School Report, 1935: 171.

³⁶ "Report of the Clerk of the W.P.A.," Duxbury Annual Report 1936.

³⁷ "Superintendent's Report," 1938 Duxbury Annual Report: 197.

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Throughout the Great Depression, enrollment in Duxbury Schools gradually climbed, as more students stayed in school until graduation (having few work options), fewer students were seasonally transient, and new houses were built around Duxbury. Despite the reopening of the Point School—a one-room school perched on stilts above a salt marsh—early in the decade, the superintendent reported in 1938, “Each year of the past decade has witnessed a gradual increase in the enrollment of the first grade. . . . As these children have moved along from grade to grade, the congestion in classroom accommodations has progressed with them until, now, practically every available seat in every school building is in use.”³⁸ These numbers meant that every building in service was pressed to its limit throughout the 1930s and into the war years beyond.

In 1943, the Harvard Graduate School of Education released a lengthy report on Duxbury’s schools, which recommended as Duxbury’s most pressing need the construction of a new school for the upper elementary grades. Though it noted that Duxbury’s former preeminence in shipbuilding had declined to the point where “Industrial life in Duxbury is virtually non-existent, except in history,” the report thought new construction was quite possible: “As a fiscal type, the town of Duxbury ranks among the preferred municipalities of the Commonwealth; that is, it has a low tax rate, a high property valuation per capita, and a high tax yield per capita.”³⁹ Contemptuous of the neighborhood school and urging Duxbury toward a single, more efficient centralized plant, the report described Tarkiln, Village, and Point elementary schools as “old out-moded wooden structures . . . These schools, the remaining vestiges of the ungraded school era, constructed long before the advantages of modern transportation, have undergone numerous and expensive repairs and alterations. They have been kept in good repair, although at considerable expense, and, in general, are today in reasonable condition.”⁴⁰ Conceding the latter, the report argued that changes to the 19th-century elementary buildings might have to be incremental until the even greater deficiencies of the high school, which was less than two decades old, were addressed.

Not until the close of the war in 1945 did Duxbury begin to plan for a large new elementary school, which would have a cafeteria, health unit, assembly room, and other specialized features far beyond the capacity of the two-room school.⁴¹ Projected for 1947, the new elementary school next to the high school did not open until 1949. That same year, Duxbury closed Tarkiln and the other small neighborhood elementary schools. For the next two decades, Duxbury built and expanded the schools on a single central campus. During the same decades, many of the former school buildings disappeared. Nearly every other early Duxbury school was razed, moved, or otherwise altered. Built in 1902, Village School was torn down in the 1950s. Partridge Academy, which served as the high school until 1926, burned in 1933. Ashdod School was moved, then burned in 1987, while Millbrook School became part of the American Legion hall.

In 1951, the facilities reopened as the Tarkiln Youth Center, a community center for rural western Duxbury. Town meeting voted \$1,000 for repairs and expansion (which included the new kitchen extension). Much of the work was done by volunteers from the neighborhood. Tarkiln now served as “a focal point for West Duxbury for all kinds of events, such as covered dish suppers. Generations of long-time West Duxbury residents began school in the Tarkiln twin schools.”⁴²

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³⁸ “Superintendent’s Report,” 1938 Duxbury Annual Report: 193.

³⁹ Center of Research and Service in Educational Administration, “Public Education in Duxbury: A Report of the Survey of the School System of Duxbury, Massachusetts 1942-43,” Cambridge: Harvard Graduate School of Education, 1943: 3. Typescript in the Duxbury Room, Duxbury Public Library.

⁴⁰ Center of Research and Service in Educational Administration, 118.

⁴¹ Duxbury School Committee Agenda 1945-46, bound volume in the archives of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society.

⁴² Tony Kelso, “The Twins of Tarkiln,” *Duxbury Clipper* 26 May 2004.

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Now those residents continued to use the building and grounds. They either completed or expanded the baseball field and made other improvements to the site:

An enthusiastic group of West Duxbury neighbors took over the building intent on making it even more of a social center. That year they had teen-age and "small fry" parties, made a ball field and had a successful team. For the local grown-ups, pot luck suppers and whist parties raised funds and made for a cozy neighborhood social center.

Through the 1950s the Tarkiln Youth and Recreation Center exemplified small town neighborliness. The neighbors held rummage and food sales as well as Christmas and Halloween parties to raise funds for the building. A summer program for West Duxbury children was successful and square dancing, rollerskating and ice skating were held in and around the center.⁴³

Tarkiln School finished out the period of significance, and the time since, as a community center. Despite the increasing suburbanization that followed the intrusion of Route 3 in 1962, the Tarkiln neighborhood has retained its rural character, with housing developments largely confined to isolated cul-de-sacs. No building symbolizes this rural neighborhood as completely as Tarkiln School.

Recent History

Physical changes to the building since the period of significance have been minor and reversible, mostly by longtime building trustee Jack Williams. According to town historian Tony Kelso, while the neighborhood square dances, whist parties, and potluck suppers continued into the 1960s and beyond, other uses predominated as the culture changed. In 1966, the Rathskellar Teens program "sponsored drop-ins, dances, pizza parties after basketball games . . . a juke box and television."⁴⁴ The 1970s brought "Atlantis Rising," a coffeehouse, and "Walden III," a drug hotline. More recent uses have included Boy Scout troops, 4-H club meetings, AA groups, religious groups, Irish step dancing, a food co-op, theatre troupe, and daycare and preschool sessions. Letters and permits in the files of the Duxbury Building Department indicate maintenance and shingling campaigns, minor fire code and safety updates, and the addition and removal of temporary internal partitions.

The past decade has seen renewed interest in Tarkiln School as a public resource. In 1999, the Duxbury recreation department completely rehabilitated the playing fields at Tarkiln, including the tennis courts and baseball diamonds. In 2000, Duxbury began to discuss renovations to the aging building and commissioned a partial study of the building.⁴⁵ The Community Preservation Committee and the Duxbury Historical Commission approached town meeting for funds in 2004 to restore the building, which served an estimated 400 users a week.⁴⁶ With town meeting support, Duxbury has completed the building study and is weighing options to restore the building and keep it a community center.⁴⁷ Until that process is completed, the Tarkiln School building has remained closed.

(continued)

⁴³ Tony Kelso, "The Twins of Tarkiln," *Duxbury Clipper* 26 May 2004.

⁴⁴ Tony Kelso, "The Twins of Tarkiln," *Duxbury Clipper* 26 May 2004.

⁴⁵ Susanna Sheehan, "Tarkiln Building to Get Facelift," *Duxbury Clipper* 25 October 2000.

⁴⁶ Susanna Sheehan, "Tarkiln Study Proposed for Special Town Meeting," *Duxbury Clipper* 12 May 2004; Susanna Sheehan, "Tarkiln Users Want to Continue," *Duxbury Clipper* 26 May 2004.

⁴⁷ Morag MacLachlan, "Committee Explores Future of Tarkiln Community Center," *Duxbury Clipper* 7 September 2005; Andrea Farrell, "Board Reviews CPC Design Plans," *Duxbury Reporter* 14 July 2006.

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Criterion C: Architecture

Tarkiln School is significant to the town's architectural history as its only 19th-century school still in public ownership and use, for its Greek Revival and Italianate design elements, and as the only known work of two local architects. Greek Revival architectural elements include the end gable form, corner pilasters with capitals, three-part entablature, gable end returns, and the eared and pedimented lintel trim on the interior. The most prominent Italianate element is the paired scroll brackets that decorate the south wing windows. This combination of Greek Revival/Italianate style was popular in Duxbury; an 1887 photograph of Millbrook School (corner of West and Tremont streets) shows a similar design, with corner pilasters, gable end returns, bracketed window hoods, three-bay front facade, and fanlight vent in the gable.

The blueprints for the 1908 wing of Tarkiln School are credited to "H. Dennison White, Arch't., Washington St., Duxbury." **Herbert D. White** was born in 1871 in Boston to Daniel & Emma White.⁴⁸ In 1898, he married Duxbury native Emma H. Goodspeed, daughter of David and Lydia H. (Winsor) Goodspeed.⁴⁹ Herbert D. White first appears in the poll tax rolls in Duxbury in 1903, and is first listed as owning taxable land in Duxbury in 1907, when he purchased the three-acre Chandler woodland in District 1. White continues in the tax list through 1915.⁵⁰ Exactly where on Washington Street White lived is not indicated, but it was near 277 Washington Street. In *Stopping Places along Duxbury Roads*, Margery L. Macmillan describes Sally Joyce's boardinghouse at that address and notes "Mr. & Mrs. H. Dennison White, parents of Mrs. Edwin Noyes, lived across the street, and they often offered accommodations for extra boarders when the Joyce house was filled for the summer."⁵¹ Although he called himself an architect on the plans, White otherwise listed his occupation as artist.⁵² White's drawings are professional looking and have sophistication; they include a floor plan, elevations, and sections. Yet no other architectural works are attributed to White in the state MACRIS database, and no other architectural commissions by White are known.⁵³

The blueprints for the 1926 connector are credited to **L. F. Parker** of Buzzards Bay. Nothing more is known of Parker, not even what names the initials denote.⁵⁴ Karen L. Davis speculates that Parker "may have been related to the

(continued)

⁴⁸ Herbert Daniel White, son of Daniel M. & Emma J. White, was born in Boston on August 5, 1871 (Massachusetts Vital Statistics Vol. 234, Page 132).

⁴⁹ Herbert D. White, son of Daniel M. & Emma J. (Banks) White, born in Boston ca. 1871, was married on October 27, 1898 in Boston (Massachusetts Vital Statistics Vol. 479, Page 263, and Vol. 480, 264). When and how Herbert Daniel White became Herbert Dennison White is not known, but since the parents, city, and year of birth are the same, they would appear to be identical.

⁵⁰ Town of Duxbury Annual Reports, 1900-1915, 1921-1925, Duxbury Room, Duxbury Public Library. The half decade of Town Reports after 1915 is missing, and tax lists do not resume until 1925; he does not appear there.

⁵¹ Margery L. Macmillan, *Stopping Places along Duxbury Roads*. Duxbury: Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, 1991: 52.

⁵² See both the 1906 and 1915 Duxbury directories, as well as his 1898 marriage license in *Vital Records*. The vertical file on Duxbury Artists at the Duxbury Public Library does not contain any references to his career.

⁵³ White is not listed in Withey & Withey. No references to White are in the general files or the architect card files of the Fine Arts Room of the Boston Public Library. The Duxbury Public Library has no individual file for White, nor files for architects or builders working in Duxbury.

⁵⁴ L.F. Parker is not listed in MACRIS (except for Tarkiln) or in Withey & Withey. No references to Parker are in the general files or the architect card files of the Fine Arts Room of the Boston Public Library. The Jonathan Bourne Public Library in Bourne (Buzzards Bay is a village of Bourne) has no individual file for Parker, nor does he appear in files for architects or builders. An examination of the Bourne Town Reports for the 1920s does not reveal any references to a Parker, not even in the School Committee Reports of school repair and construction.

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superintendent of schools, John W. Parker, who submitted the renovation plans for the 'Tarkiln Grammar and Intermediate School' to the Department of Public Safety."⁵⁵ No record has been found in Bourne to support or disprove her speculation.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA), an innovative federal agency, provided the workforce for the 1935 clearing of the ballfield site at Tarkiln School. Along with its predecessor—the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA or ERA)—the WPA provided jobs and job training for a decade (1933-1943). The WPA built or improved numerous outdoor recreational facilities in Massachusetts, including parks; courts for tennis, handball, and horseshoes; swimming and wading pools; fairgrounds; and bandshells and outdoor theatres. According to Massachusetts State Administrator Denis Delaney, the WPA built new 65 stadiums, grandstands, and bleachers statewide, and reconstructed or improved 37 more. It built new 81 athletic fields and reconstructed or improved 140 more, such as that at Tarkiln School.⁵⁶ The Tarkiln work took place under the Works Progress Administration, which existed from May 6, 1935 to July 1, 1939. From that date until its abolition on June 30, 1943, the "WPA" was known by a different name, the Work Projects Administration. The online Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) lists over 200 sites with connections to WPA. In some towns and especially in larger cities, the WPA worked with architects on designing and building large-scale projects such as stadiums; the Duxbury project appears to have involved primarily labor.

None of the WPA listings on MACRIS are from Duxbury; the Tarkiln School clearing appears to be the most significant. Men working for the WPA undertook numerous projects in Duxbury during 1935 and 1936: reseeding shellfish, grading and straightening roads, constructing cement curbs and walks, clearing brush and undergrowth from woods roads and at dangerous curves. Under the WPA, women sewed clothing. The importance of the WPA support was clear: "During the winter months, when the regular kinds of work is [sic] at its lowest point and while the Bay was frozen over, bringing to a standstill our only real industry, namely the taking of various kinds of shellfish, the W.P.A. employed as many as seventy-five men and women at one time, thus relieving the unemployment situation."⁵⁷ Town resources didn't allow for a direct match for the WPA money: various town departments contributed from their budgets. No other WPA project in Duxbury has had the continued visibility of the Tarkiln School playing field.

Archaeological Significance

While numerous ancient Native American sites have been recorded in the Duxbury area, few have been systematically or intensively studied, limiting their level of interpretation. Many sites remain undocumented, with locational information only. Collections research has contributed some information relating to cultural chronologies, tool technologies, and site type/function based on inferences from artifact tool types and location; however, these collections may reflect collector bias for locations and materials and usually lack intrasite provenience. Professional archaeological surveys and excavations conducted over the last 25 years as part of cultural resource management studies have contributed additional information; however, among more than 2,600 such studies conducted statewide in Massachusetts, only four were in Duxbury. Given the above information, patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Duxbury remain poorly

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⁵⁵ Karen L. Davis, "Tarkiln School," MHC Form B-Building, October 2000.

⁵⁶ Denis W. Delaney, Massachusetts State Administrator, *Work Projects Administration* (June 15, 1943,) from *Archives of the Work Projects Administration and Predecessors, 1933-1943*. Microfilm, Boston Public Library, 20.

⁵⁷ "Report of the Clerk of the W.P.A.," Duxbury Annual Report 1936.

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documented. Any surviving sites on the property or in the town have the potential to contribute valuable information relating to the town's Native American history. Native sites located on the Tarkiln School property may contain information that documents the growth of settlement in the South Shore coastal locale and the role it played in the development of a regional Native American settlement core that evolved in that area. Information may exist that documents the reasons why a core developed in this area, possibly as a function of sea-level rise and the floral and faunal resources that developed in upland and marine-related ecosystems. Information may also exist that documents the distribution of site types and functions within this area and how that distribution changed through time. Information may exist that documents the importance of this area to Native, and ultimately European, populations during the early historic or Contact period.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the history of education in Duxbury, the town's entertainment/recreational history, and the architectural significance of the school building. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate structural evidence of barns, stables, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) that can identify the full range of facilities associated with the Tarkiln School.

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Historic Maps: Benjamin Alden, 1795 map of Duxbury, in the collection of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society (and reproduced in Long). *A Map of Duxbury, Mass., Surveyed by John Ford Jr., 1833* (Boston: Pendleton's Lithog.); *Town of Duxbury, Mass.*, and *Village of Duxbury, Mass.*, 1879. Both maps are available in the Duxbury Room of the Duxbury Free Library and reproduced in both Forgit and Long. *Atlas of Surveys of Plymouth County and Town of Cohasset, Norfolk Co. Massachusetts* (Springfield: J. L. Richards Co., 1903). Henry A. Fish, Map of Duxbury, 1923. USGS maps available online: Historic USGS Maps of New England and New York through the Dimond Library at the University of New Hampshire, which include the 1941 Duxbury Quadrangle (Surveyed 1935, 1926) and the version of the same revised to 1947: (<http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm>).

Plans: Blueprints for the second (1908) building of Tarkiln School, designed by H.D. White; and its third, connector building (1926), by L.F. Parker, are on file in the Blueprints Collection at the Massachusetts State Archives: Case D, Rack 2, Apart. 4, No. 5999; and Case C, Rack 14, Apart. 7, No. 33537, respectively.

(end)



Tarkiln School
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.76 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 19	355800	4655000
Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19	355960	4655060
Zone	Easting	Northing

3. 19	355960	4654900
Zone	Easting	Northing
4. 19	355860	4654940
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 Timothy T. Orwig, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2009

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 Duxbury

street & number Town Hall, 878 Tremont Street telephone 781-934-1104

city or town Duxbury state MA zip code 02332

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.

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10. Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for this property corresponds to the legal boundary of the lot containing Tarkiln School and its associated playing fields, at 245 Summer Street in Duxbury. The legal description is Parcel 090.0-0500-0023.0 (Map 90, Block 0500, and Lot 23). The legal boundary was established by two deeds. The 1871 deed defined the acre around the school: Elbridge Chandler to the Inhabitants of Duxbury, Plymouth County Deeds Book 383, Page 18 (signed 19 May 1871, recorded 2 Dec. 1871). The 1927 deed added land surrounding the lot on three sides: Nora and Manuel Andrade to the Inhabitants of Duxbury, Plymouth County Deeds Book 1527, Page 14 (signed 28 May 1927, recorded 16 June 1927).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries correspond to the legal boundaries of the lot that includes both the original Tarkiln School and the surrounding playing fields, as established in 1927. This boundary has not changed since that time.



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Additional Documentation—Photographs

Timothy Orwig was the photographer for all the photographs, which were taken on 21 May 2007, and the negatives are in his possession. All of the photographs show Tarkiln School, 245 Summer Street, Duxbury, Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

1. Looking east, showing the street (west) façade of Tarkiln School.
2. Looking northeast, showing the street (west) façade of Tarkiln School.
3. Looking east, showing the street (west) façade of the south wing.
4. Detail: looking east, showing the street (west) façade of the south wing. Note the lunette, signboard, window brackets, and shutters.
5. Looking north, showing south wall.
6. Looking northwest, showing east wall. From left to right: south wing, connector, basement stairs and toolbox, kitchen leanto, north wing.
7. Looking southeast, showing north wall of north wing.
8. Detail: looking east, showing the street (west) façade of the connector. Note the window brackets and shutters.
9. Interior detail: Doorway architraves and pressed tin panels, entry vestibule, north wing.
10. Peter B. Sinnott Memorial Park, looking east. Note, from left to right, the drinking fountain, Sinnott plaque (at foot of tree in center of view), Sinnott sign, and Dewing plaque (behind right post of sign, at base of chain link fence). In the background left is the dugout and north diamond of Dewing Field. In the background center and right is the south diamond.
11. Grounds of Tarkiln School, showing the Sinnott Memorial Park (left), wood shed and batting cage (center) and the tennis courts to the right.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

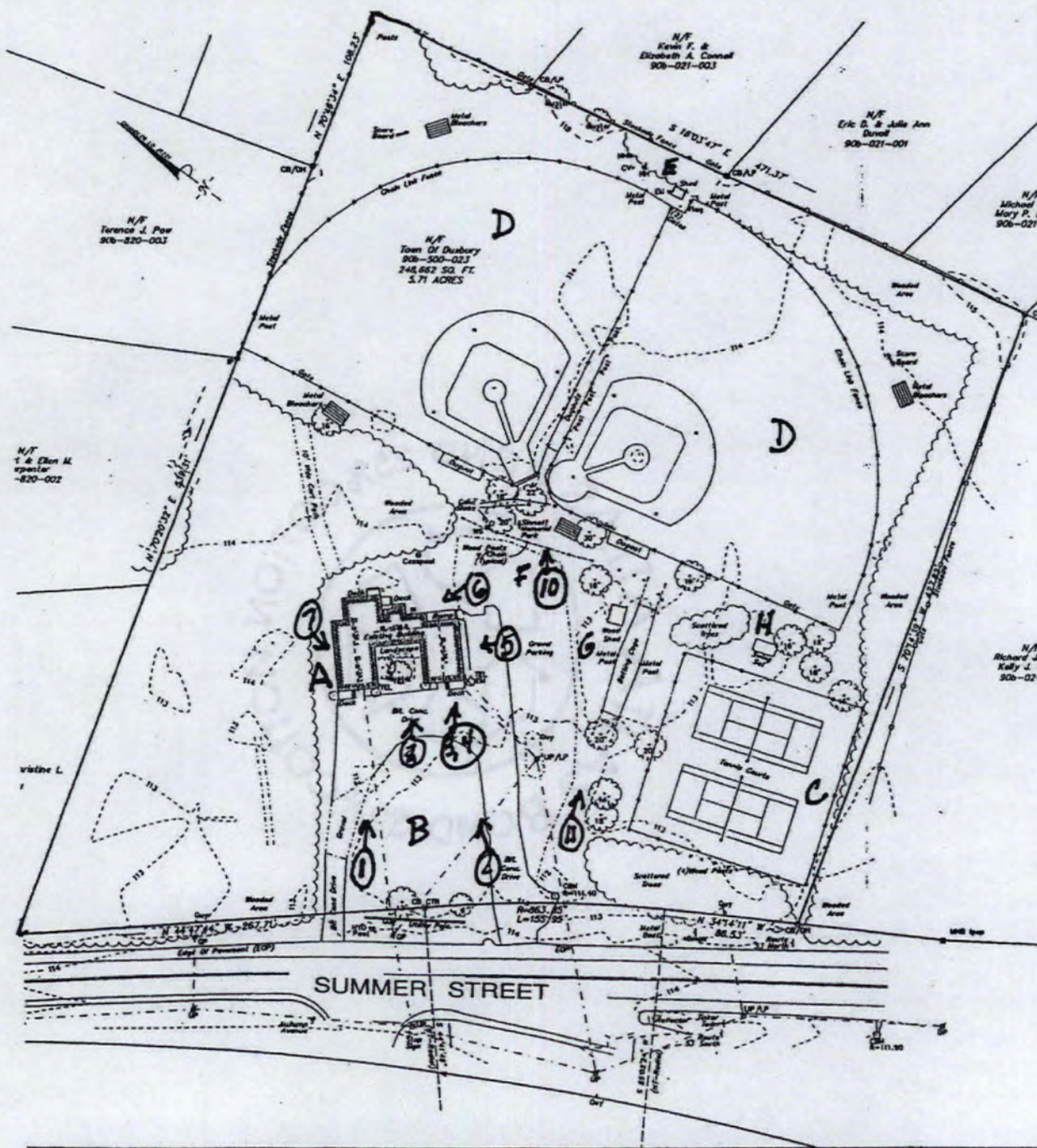
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

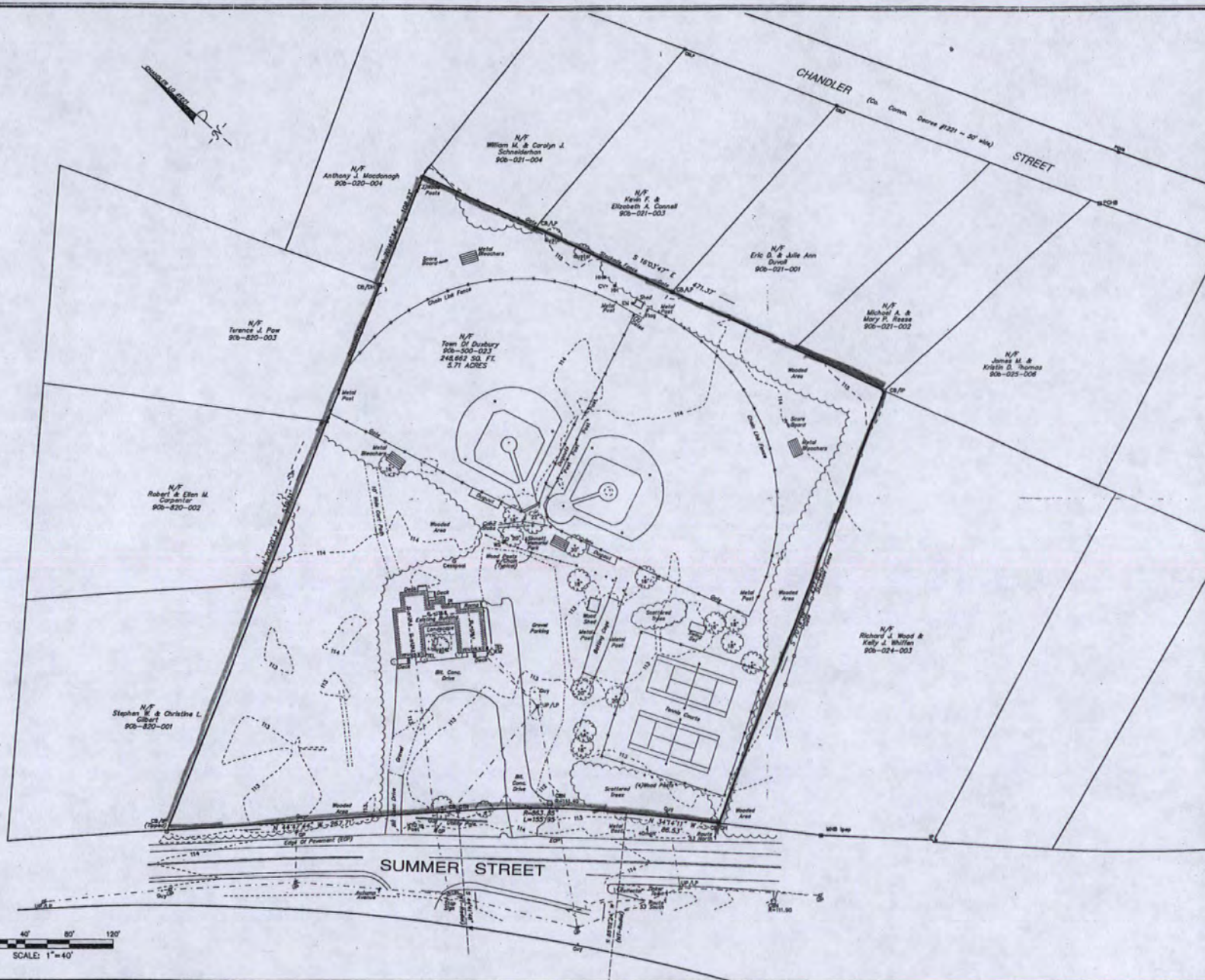
Tarkiln School
Duxbury (Plymouth)MA

Section number Additional Documentation Page 2

Sketch Map

Based on the 2005 Existing Conditions Plan by Aaberg Associates Inc. Letters correspond to the Site Data Sheet. Circled numbers with arrows indicate the position of photographer and direction of view in the supporting photographs. This detail map is not to scale.





LOCUS MAP
NO SCALE

GENERAL NOTES:

1. Zoning Classification - RC
Setback Dimensions: FY - 15'
SY - 15'
*FY=25' from ROW (Way > 40' Wide)
FY=45' from CL (Way < 40' Wide)
2. Locus lies in F.I.R.M. Zone X as shown on Community Map No. 250263 00400 dated May 17, 2005.
3. Underground utilities shown on this plan are based upon values above ground utilities and record information of below ground utilities and are approximate only. Contractor is responsible for taking all necessary precautions before beginning any excavation. (Digsafe 1-888-344-7233)

OWNER
Duxbury Conservation Commission
245 Summer Street
Duxbury, MA
Deed Bk. 1527, Pg. 014
Assessor's Parcel: 500-003

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

245 SUMMER ST IN DUXBURY, MA

SCALE: 1"= 40'

DATE: AUGUST 30, 2005

AABERG ASSOCIATES INC.
Professional Land Surveyors
100 Main Street, Suite 200
Duxbury, MA 01928
Phone: 978.261.4444 Fax: 978.261.4445
E-Mail: info@aaberg.com Web: www.aaberg.com

PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

REVISIONS

DATE	REVISION
8/13/05	Property Line Submittal

Drawn By: NLA/DB
Checked By: DBA
Job No. 2005.110

SHEET 1 OF 1



**Town of Duxbury
MASSACHUSETTS**

Legend	
Rivers and Streams	Easements
Residential Improved	Parcels
Commercial/Industrial Improved	Water Bodies



**Assessor Map
090B**

Property Data Sheet
Tarkiln School, Duxbury, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

Map Index Letter; Resource Name	Date of Construction	Type of Resource	Contributing or Not (NC)	Direction from Tarkiln School	Architect or Designer (if known)
A. Tarkiln School	1871, 1908, 1926	Building	2 Contributing		Herbert D. White (1908) L.F. Parker (1926)
B. Front Driveway	1871	Structure	Contributing	SW	
C. Tennis Courts	ca. 1999	Site	NC	S	
D. Jerome B. Dewing Field	1935, 1999	Site	Contributing	E	WPA (Works Progress Administration)
E. Electric Shed	1999	Building	NC	E	
F. Peter B. Sinnott Memorial Park	1986	Site	NC	E	
G. Wood Shed	late 1960s	Building	NC	SE	
H. Swing Set	ca. 1990	Structure	NC	SE	
Totals: 9 = 2 contributing building; 2 noncontributing buildings; 1 contributing site; 2 noncontributing sites; 1 contributing structure; and 1 noncontributing structures.					

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Tarklin School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 7/17/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/31/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/15/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/30/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000647

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 8-26-09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



THE TARKILN BUILDING
CELEBRATING 136 YEARS OF SERVICE 30 DUXBURY

TARKILN
COMMUNITY CENTER

1.
Tarkiln School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photos 5/2007

LOOKING NE, W FACADE (STREET)

2. Tarkiln School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG Photo 5/2007

LOOKING E SHOWING W (STREET) FACADE

3. Tarkiln School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photo 5/2007

DETAIL, LOOKING E, SHOWING W FACADE
LUNETTE, SIGNBOARD, WINDOW BRACKETS
and SHUTTERS.

4. Turkish School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photo 5/2007

LOOKING N, SHOWING S WALL

5. Tarkiln School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photo 5/2007

LOOKING NW SHOWING E WALL

G. Tarkenton School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photo 5/2007

LOOKING SE, SHOWING N WALL of N WING

1. Tarkenton School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photo 5/2007

DETAIL: LOOKING E, SHOWING W (STREET) FACADE
of the CONNECTOR.

8. Tarkenton School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photo 5/2007

DETAIL: DOORWAY ARCHITRAVES & PRESSED TIN PANELS

9. Tarkenton School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photo 5/2007

PETER B. SINNOTT MEM. PARK, LOOKING E

10. Tarkenton School
Plymouth Co., MA



TIM ORWIG photo 5/2007

GROUNDS of TARKILN SCHOOL, SINNOTT MEM. PARK

H. Tarkiln School
Plymouth Co., MA

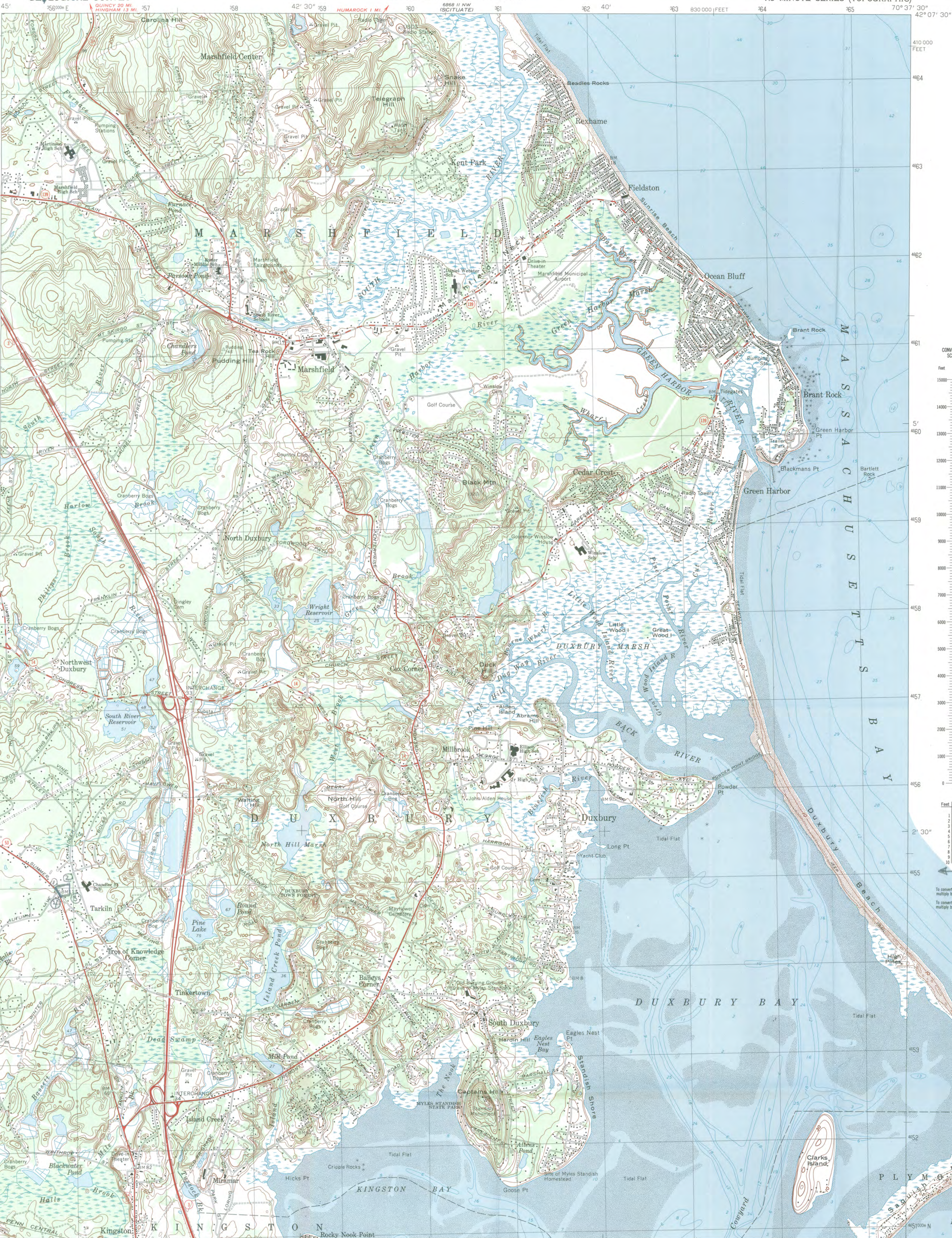
See U.S.
Geological Survey
7.5 Minute Series
(Topographic)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DUXBURY QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—PLYMOUTH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

70° 45' 30" E
42° 07' 30" N



CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet
15000
14000
13000
12000
11000
10000
9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0

Meters
4500
4000
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0

Feet
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Meters
3048
6096
9144
12192
15240
18288
21336
24384
27432
30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Tarklin School
Duxbury, MA
1.19 355800 4655000
4.19 355860 4654440
2.19 355960 4653060
3.19 355960 4654900

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1935-1936
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 245 (1972) and
1208 (1973). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19

UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

20%
TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

SCALE 1:25 000

1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETRE

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 5.2 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

Light-duty road, hard or improved surface

DUXBURY, MASS.
N4200-W7037.5/7.5
1974
AMS 6868 II SW—SERIES V814



BF

Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND TOWN MANAGER



RECEIVED

MAY 14 2009

MASS. HIST. COMM

May 11, 2009

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

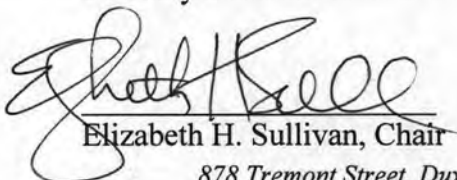
Thank you for your recent letter informing us that the Tarkiln School nomination will be brought before the State Review Board of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the next step in the nomination process for the recommendation of the Tarkiln School to the National Register of Historic Places.

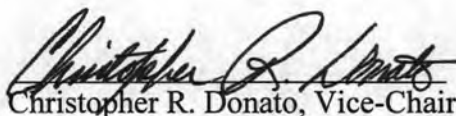
The Duxbury Board of Selectmen fully supports the nomination of this important local historical, cultural and architectural resource to the National Register. We have been kept apprised throughout the process, beginning with the MHC declaration of eligibility of Tarkiln for listing, and understand the level of documentation required at each stage of the nomination. We are extremely pleased that Tarkiln has met the necessary criteria.

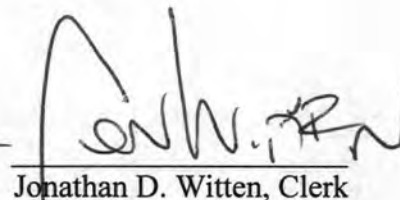
Tarkiln's renewal was approved at March Town Meeting and as work begins in the coming months, the potential of listing of this resource on the National Register of Historic Places is an exciting development.

Sincerely,

Duxbury Board of Selectmen


Elizabeth H. Sullivan, Chair


Christopher R. Donato, Vice-Chair


Jonathan D. Witten, Clerk

878 Tremont Street, Duxbury, MA 02332 Telephone: 781-934-1100 x149 Fax: 781-934-9011
Town-Manager@town.duxbury.ma.us

The mission of the Town of Duxbury is to deliver excellent services to the community in the most fiscally responsible and innovative manner while endeavoring to broaden our sense of community and preserve the unique character of our town.



RECEIVED 2280

JUL 17 2009

REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

July 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Tarkiln School, 245 Summer Street, Duxbury (Plymouth), 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: Timothy Orwig, consultant
Robert Vose III, Duxbury Historical Commission
Elizabeth Sullivan, Duxbury Board of Selectmen
Amy M. McNabb, Planning Board Chair