

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 26 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 3 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC *hbc* Lancaster Industrial School for Girls (Bridecake Plain)

AND/OR COMMON

Lancaster Industrial School for Girls

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER *St of Lancaster*

Old Common Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE

027

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER: *correc-  
tions***4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STREET &amp; NUMBER

State House

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02133

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

STATE

Massachusetts 01608

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1858</u> (Chapel)
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lancaster Industrial School for Girls is situated southeast of the town center on 279 acres of land lying between the road to Bolton (Old Common Road) and the old turn-pile running from Boston to Fitchburg (Still River Road). The complex consists of 18 structures spread throughout the sprawling campus grounds which are beautifully landscaped and kept in park-like condition.

The majority of the buildings are brick and date from the mid-nineteenth century, although three are of clapboard construction and were built in the late eighteenth century. The latter were originally farmhouses which were acquired by the school for use as residences and administrative offices.

The Thomas Safford House (1799) (#1) faces Old Common Road and is two stories with a five-bay facade. The building is sheathed in white clapboards, and its six-over-six sash windows have dark green shutters. The hip roof has two chimneys, one on either side. The central pedimented portico is supported by two fluted Doric columns, and the paneled door is surmounted by a fanlight. Dentils adorn this front pediment and the eaves surrounding the house. The interior has retained its handsome carved molding in the wainscoting, ceilings and fireplaces.

Another Federal house on the grounds is the Abner Pollard House (c. 1790) (#3). The two and one-half story building has yellow clapboards with white trim and black shutters. There are three chimneys on the ridge roof, and the windows have six-over-six sash. The front portion of the building was the original house, and a compatible rear office was added in 1854.

Typical of the cottages built by the Industrial School in the 1850's is the Fay Cottage (1855) (#5). This two-story Italianate building is brick with white trim. It has a hip roof with two chimneys and two shed dormers. The segmental arched windows are grouped in pairs, and there is a bay window on the south elevation. The main entrance is on the west facade, and its open porch is supported by bracketed posts. Ornamental brickwork can be found in the dentils at the eaves, the double band at the cornice, and above the windows. A rear ell extends to the north of the building.

The interior of each of the eight cottages is substantially the same. On the first floor are a parlor, sewing room, dining room, kitchen, laundry, and schoolroom. On the second floor the housemother had a large sitting room and alcove bedroom. Across the hall was the housekeeper's room and sometimes a teacher's room, and down the hall were smaller rooms for the girls. On the third floor the house teachers and special teachers had their apartments.

Also on the grounds are a number of functional buildings such as the Hose House (#8), Paint Shop (#9), Lumber Shop (#10), Barn, Sheds, and Garage (#7). Built in the 1850's and 1860's, these structures are neatly painted brown clapboard with white trim. The barn, shed, and garage form a U-shaped building with intersecting ridge roofs.

Adding variety to the district is the Industrial School Chapel (#17). Built in 1850 before the establishment of the school, this brick building has its gable end to the front. The ridge roof slopes sharply down to the east, and there is an attached bell tower on the southwest corner of the chapel. The facade has five diamond-paned, arched windows with three larger windows on the level above. There are two front entrances set in key-stoned brick arches. At the rear of the chapel is an east-west extension which (continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY (correctional facility))	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lancaster Industrial School for Girls is significant as the oldest girls' training school in America and as one of the most progressive correctional institutions of its day. The district is also a fine collection of eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century buildings, representing both early farmhouses and structures built specifically for correctional purposes. The area in which the Industrial School is located was in earlier times the town common, and in 1705 the Third Meeting House was built here. Records also indicate that the area was known as Bridecake Plain, although the origin of the name has not been determined.

With the appropriation of \$20,000 by Legislative Resolve, the Lancaster Industrial School for Girls was established in April 1854. Thus began the first girls' training school in the United States and the first such institution in the world with individual girls' rooms as opposed to dormitory living. The goal of the school was not primarily vocational, but rather the healing of emotional disorders and experiences of girls classified by the courts as "delinquents." Life at the school was according to honor principles; whereas originally naughty girls were punished by confinement in a strong room in each cottage, later disciplinary measures were less severe.

The first superintendent of the school was Reverend Bradford K. Pierce, D.D., who for many years also served as editor of the Methodist publication Zion's Herald. In 1862 Reverend Marchus Ames was appointed superintendent, and his successor in 1875 was Deacon Loring Lothrop of Boston.

The first acquisition by the school in 1854 was the Abner Pollard House (#3) which in the past had been inhabited by Captain Orice King, a wealthy sea captain and man of public spirit who was held in high esteem in the community. Another eighteenth century house obtained by the school was the Oliver Carter House (#6). Oliver Carter was the son of one of the Ephraim Carters and he married Emily Harrington, granddaughter of one of the early Lancaster ministers. The Carter family played an important role in the town and served as moderators, selectmen, and delegates to the general court. Oliver Carter's sons, George, Horatio and Timothy, engaged in the printing and publishing business (Carter-Andrew Publishing Company). The house also served as the house and store of Moses Emerson when he was flourishing as one of the most extensive traders in the county.

The first cottage to house the girls was built in 1855 and named the Fay Cottage (#5) for the first commissioner Francis Fay. The Rogers Cottage (#4) was built next. Both the Fay and Rogers Cottages cost \$5,000 each, and within them the girls' individual rooms were small, but ample, providing a bed, chair, bureau, and corner closet.

(continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Marvin, Abijah. History of the Town of Lancaster, 1643-1879. Lancaster, 1879.  
Montachusett Review. 1973.  
Sunday Herald. 1908.  
7th Annual Report of the Trustees. 1901. Lyman and Industrial School.  
 Interview of Miss Claire Donovan, Assistant Superintendent and Administrator of  
 Lancaster Industrial School for Girls. 1975.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 70 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	2,8,1,6,9,0	4,7,0,2,4,8,0	B	1,9	2,8,1,5,8,0	4,7,0,1,8,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,9	2,8,1,0,0,0	4,7,0,2,0,8,0	D	1,9	2,8,0,9,6,0	4,7,0,2,3,2,0

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** Beginning at the Thomas Safford House, the district boundary runs east along the north side of Old Common Road approximately 1800' to an institutional road; thence northeast on that road to its intersection with another institutional road, then west and north again on that road to Still River Road; thence west along the south side of Still River Road approximately 1900' to a point where the boundary turns south and runs in a straight line along the cemetery property until it intersects at Old Common Road west of the Thomas Safford House.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Phyllis Farnsworth, Chairman, and Janice Breen, Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor and Lancaster Historical Commission
ORGANIZATION	Massachusetts Historical Commission
STREET & NUMBER	294 Washington Street
CITY OR TOWN	Boston
DATE	May 18, 1976
TELEPHONE	617-727-8470
STATE	Massachusetts 02108

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth Reed Amador*

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

5/18/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attest:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/8/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/7/26

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

#7:

was built in 1908.

#8:

Other cottages constructed were the Mary E. Lamb Cottage (#2), the Pines Cottage (#19), the Clara Barton Cottage (#13) and the Putnam Cottage (#11). In each cottage the girls shared the work, setting tables, doing dishes and caring for their own rooms. They were taught by the matron, teacher or housekeeper in their several departments a six-month course in the kitchen, laundry and dining room.

The Chapel (#5) was moved from another location to the Industrial School in 1858. The Barn and Sheds (#7) were used as maintenance shops and housed state vehicles. In the rear of the barn was the cannery where farm products grown on the grounds were prepared for freezing and canning. Twenty-four acres of the school property were used for farming and one hundred acres of hay land was leased on a contract basis.

The Campbell Cottage (#12) was built in 1935 and was the last cottage to be built. In 1971 Campbell Cottage became the first facility for a co-educational program in the Youth Services program, serving boys and girls, 13-16.

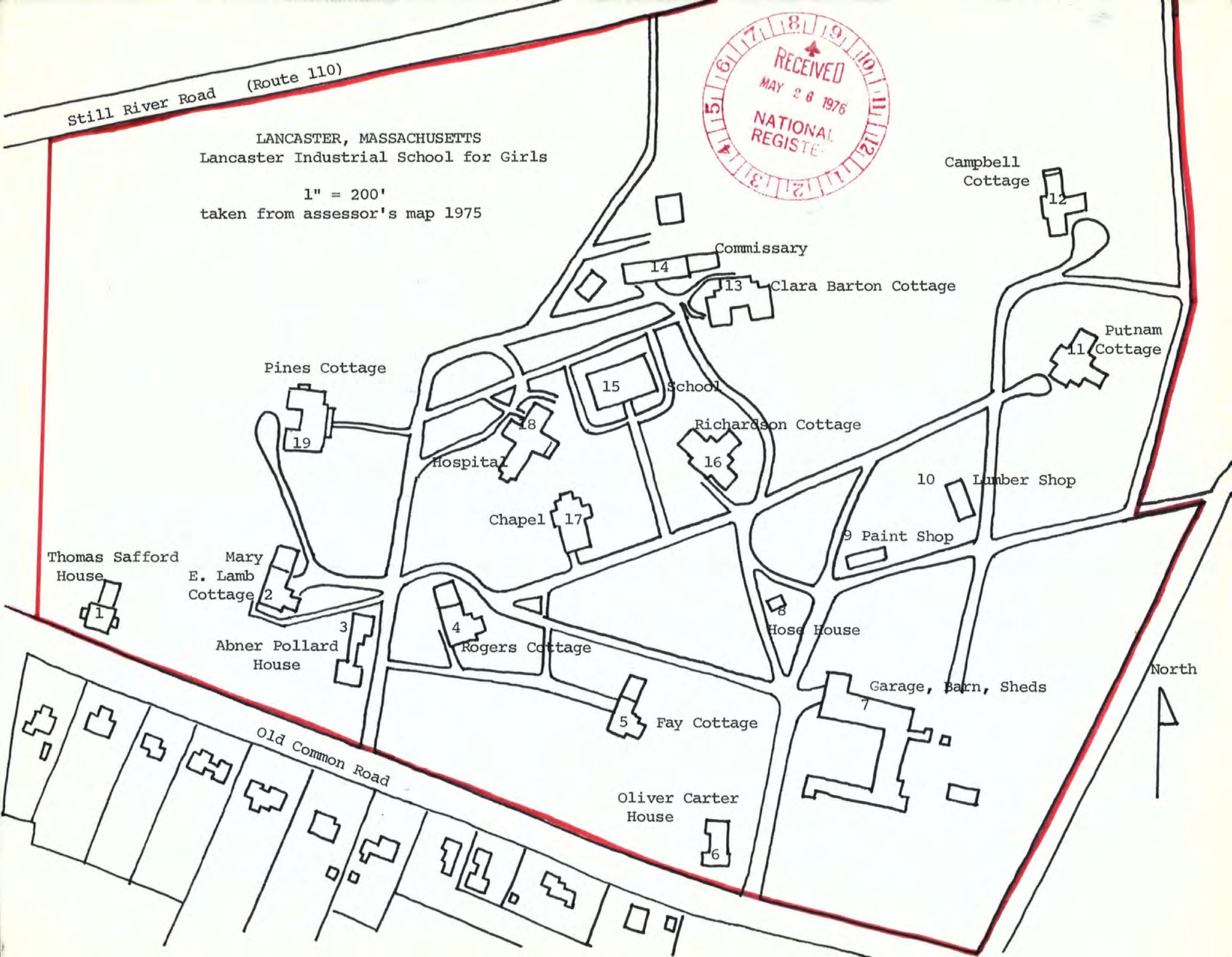
In 1935 the Thomas Safford House (#1) was acquired by the school and served as the residence of Superintendent Marcus Ames. The house was built in the late eighteenth century by Thomas Safford, a baker, and later occupied by Dr. David Steuart Robertson. Mrs. Anthaniel Thayer, wife of a local prominent citizen, bought the house in 1889 for use as a vacation home (known as "Goodrest") for working girls from Boston. When the house was bought by the Industrial School, extensive restoration work was done, removing porches and replacing windows, to return it to its earlier appearance.

Today, although the activity of the Industrial School for Girls has been phased down, the facility continues to be used for various penal and community programs.

Still River Road (Route 110)

LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
Lancaster Industrial School for Girls

1" = 200'  
taken from assessor's map 1975



NPS Number 10,876

Title: Lancaster Industrial School for Girls  
Worcester Co., Mass.

Loc. sketch map

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Lancaster Industrial School for Girls

State Massachusetts Working Number 5.26.76.3489

Worcester

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 6

Maps 1 sketch

**HISTORIAN**

This looks good, but we should have some info and photos for buildings # 14, 15, 16, + 18. I also wonder if the cemetery is connected of the school (#10), what the present agricultural use is, and whether the institution was originally ~~affiliated with~~ <sup>affiliated with</sup> the Methodist Church. ~~Cemetery not included. Photos coming.~~ <sup>photos included</sup>

~~call~~  
B. Grosvenor  
7/10/76  
accept 7/29/76

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Added information would be of interest but I think the basic ~~for~~ data needed to judge the nomination is here. Descriptive material could suffice for # 14, 15, 16, 18.

Accept  
S. Oldham  
7/27/76

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
W.R. Luce  
10/4/76

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

Wm  
10/7/76

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 10-7-76

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered OCT 8 1976

INT:2106-74



Thomas Safford House (#1)  
Lancaster Industrial School for Girls  
Lancaster, MA *Worcester Co.*  
Marygail Neroni, photographer  
December 1974  
Lancaster Historical Commission, Town Hall,  
Lancaster, MA 01523  
Looking northwest at facade and east side.

Photograph #1

MAY 26 1976  
OCT 8 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Bruderske Plain District  
E II Thomas Safford House #1  
(Thayer House, Industrial School)  
Old Common Road  
Lancaster, Mass.  
Dec. 1974  
Photographer, Marygail Neroni*



Fay Cottage (#5)

Lancaster Industrial School for Girls

Lancaster, MA *Worcester Co.*

Wendell Bartlett, photographer

May 1975

Lancaster Historical Commission, Town Hall,

Lancaster, MA 01523

Looking west.

OCT 8 1976

MAY 26 1976

Photograph #2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Brinkley Plain District  
E 16 Fay Cottage #5  
Industrial School  
Old Corner Road  
Lancaster, Mass.  
May, 1975  
Photographer - Wendell Bartlett*



Barn, Shed and Garage (#7)  
Lancaster Industrial School for Girls  
Lancaster, MA *Worcester Co*  
Wendell Bartlett, photographer  
May 1975  
Lancaster Historical Commission, Town Hall,  
Lancaster, MA 01523  
Looking northeast.

Photograph #3

MAY 26 1976

OCT 8 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bridgewater Plain District  
E 20 Burns - Industrial School for girls #7  
Old Common Road  
Lancaster, Mass.  
May, 1975  
Photographer, Wendell Bartlett



Paint Shop (#9)  
Lancaster Industrial School for Girls  
Lancaster, MA *Worcester Co.*  
Marygail Neroni, photographer  
December 1974  
Lancaster Historical Commission, Town Hall,  
Lancaster, MA 01523  
Looking north.

Photograph #4

OCT 8 1976

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Industrial School  
E 20a Front Shop #9  
Old Common Road  
Lancaster, Mass.  
Dec. 1974  
Photographer - Marygale Neroni*



Chapel (#17)

Lancaster Industrial School for Girls

Lancaster, MA *Worcester Co.*

Wendell Bartlett, photographer

May 1975

Lancaster Historical Commission, Town Hall,

Lancaster, MA 01523

Looking northwest.

Photograph #5

OCT 8 1976

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Bridcke Plain District  
E17 Chapel - Industrial School for Girls #17  
Old Common Road  
Lancaster, Mass.  
May 1975  
Photographer, Wendell Bartlett*



Pines Cottage (#19)  
Lancaster Industrial School for Girls  
Lancaster, MA *Warrenton Co.*  
Marygail, Neroni, photographer  
December 1974  
Lancaster Historical Commission, Town Hall,  
Lancaster, MA 01523  
Looking northwest.

Photograph #6

OCT 8 1976

MAY 26 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Bridgewater Plain District  
Industrial School  
E14a The Pines Cottage #19  
Old Common Road  
Lancaster, Mass.  
Dec. 1974  
Photographer, Marygail Neroni*



Lancaster Industrial School for Girls  
Lancaster, MA *worcester cs*

P.A. Farnsworth, Photographer  
1976

OCT 8 1976

Lancaster Historical Commission  
Town Hall. Lancaster, MA 01523  
Front of Infirmary (18)

Photo #7

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

P. A. FARNSWORTH



Lancaster Industrial School for Girls  
Lancaster, MA *worcester Co*  
P.A. Farnsworth, Photographer  
1976

OCT 8 1976

Lancaster Historical Commission  
Town Hall, Lancaster, MA 01523  
Left Side of Infirmary (18)  
Photo #8

P. A. FARNSWORTH



Lancaster Industrial School for Girls

Lancaster, MA *Worcester Co*

P.A. Farnsworth, Photographer

1976

Lancaster Historical Commission

Town Hall, Lancaster, MA 01523

Rear of Infirmary (18)

Photo #9

OCT 8 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Lancaster Industrial School for Girls  
Lancaster, MA *Worcester Co.*

P.A. Farnsworth, Photographer OCT 8 1976  
1976

Lancaster Historical Commission  
Town Hall, Lancaster, MA 01523  
Commissary (14)  
Photo #11

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER *th*

## Missing Core Documentation

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>County, State</b>	<b>Reference Number</b>
Lancaster Industrial School for Girls	Worcester County, Massachusetts	76000301

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs (missing #10)

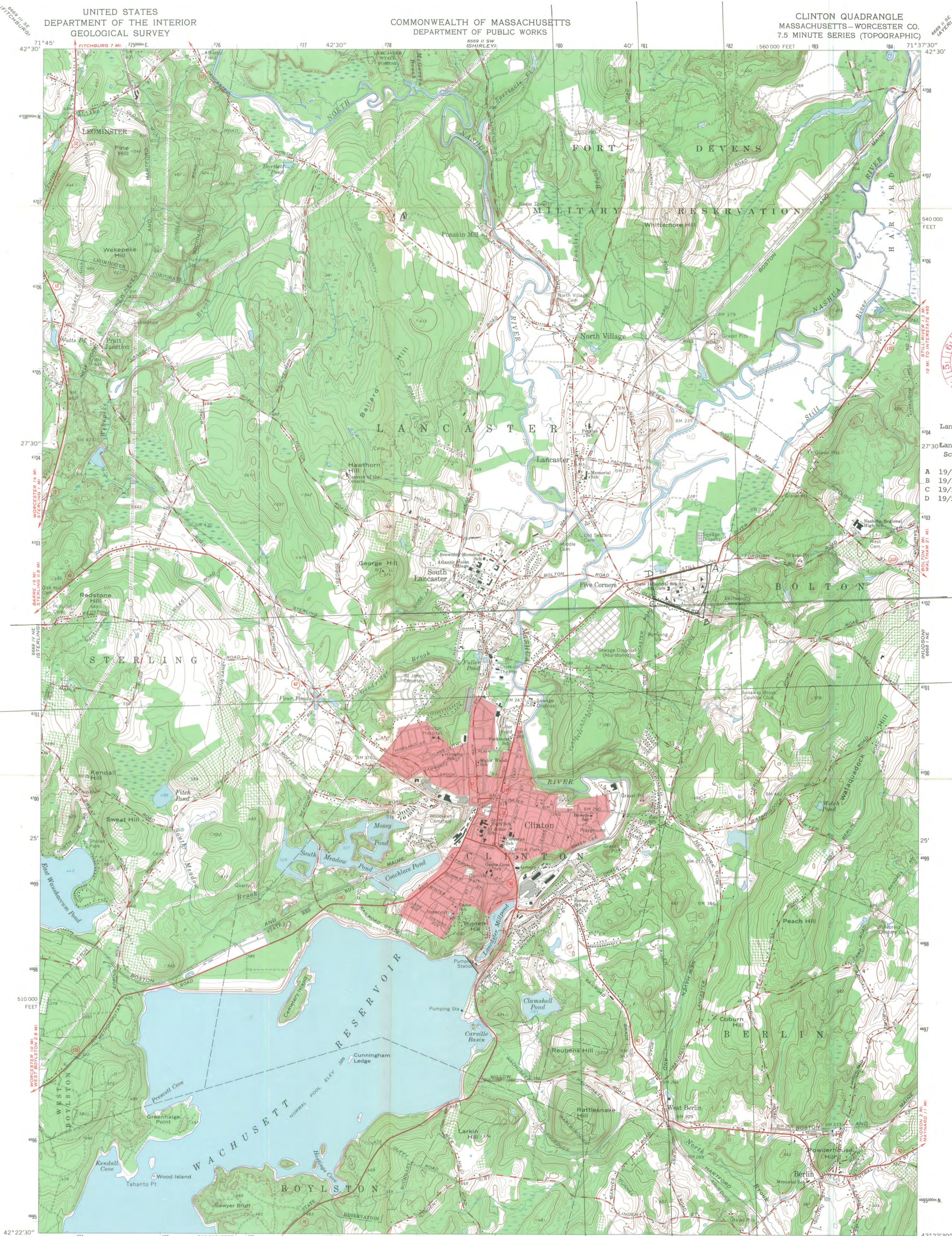
USGS Map



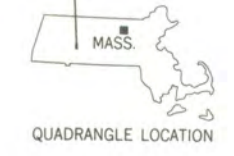
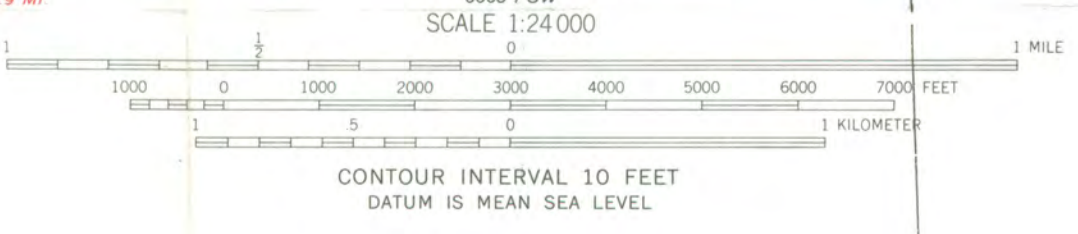
Lancaster, Massachusetts

Lancaster Industrial School for Girls

- A 19/281690/4702480
- B 19/281580/4701840
- C 19/281000/4702080
- D 19/280960/4702320



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1939. Topography by planimeter surveys 1923 and 1940  
Revised 1965  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CLINTON, MASS.  
N4222.5—W7137.5/7.5  
1965  
AMS 6666 I NW—SERIES V814



PAUL GUZZI

*Secretary of the  
Commonwealth*

# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Office of the Secretary*

*Massachusetts Historical Commission*

*294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108*

*(617) 727-8470*

August 20, 1976

Ms. Bess Gooveman  
National Register Office  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Gooveman:

Enclosed please find the photos of the Lancaster Industrial School for Girls which you requested. If we can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

*Andrea M. Gilmore*

Andrea M. Gilmore  
Survey Division  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered 10/14/76

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Shrewsbury Historic District	Shrewsbury Worcester County
Old City Hall	Malden Middlesex County
Lancaster Industrial School for Girls	Lancaster vicinity Worcester County
Woodward, Rev. Samuel, House	Weston Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Hon. Joseph D. Early	Executive Director
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald	Massachusetts Historical Commission
Hon. Robert F. Drinan	294 Washington Street
Regional Director, North Atlantic Region	Boston, Massachusetts 02108

OCT 29 1978

New  
England  
Newspaper

Built In 1854 —

## Girl's School Now Historic Site

**LANCASTER** — Lancaster Industrial School for Girls, Old Common Road, Lancaster, nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has been accepted. State Secretary Paul Guzzi, Chairman of the Commission, has been informed by Gary Everhardt, Director of the National Park Service in the United States Department of the Interior.

The school is significant as the oldest girls' training school in America and as one of the most progressive correctional institutions of its day.

The area is also noteworthy because of its fine collection of 18th, 19th and early 20th century buildings, representing both early farmhouses and structures built specifically for correctional purposes.

In earlier times the area was the Town Common, and in 1705, the Third Meeting House was built here. Records also indicate that the area was known as Bridecake Plain, although the origin of the name remains obscure.

The Industrial School for Girls in Lancaster was established in April of 1854 with an appropriation of \$20,000 by Legislative resolve.

Thus began the first girls' training school in the U.S. and the first such institution in the world with individual girls' rooms as opposed to dormitory living.

The goal of the school was not primarily vocational, but rather the healing of emotional disorders and experiences of girls classified as "delinquents" by the courts.

Life at the school was ac-

ording to honor principles; whereas originally girls were punished by confinement in a strong room in each cottage, later disciplinary measures were less severe.

The first superintendent of the school was Rev. Bradford K. Pierce, D.D., who for many years also served as Editor of the Methodist publication, "Zion's Herald."

He was followed by Rev. Marcus Ames (1862) and his successor was Deacon Loring Lothrop of Boston.

The initial acquisition by the school in 1854 was the Abner Pollard House, which in the past had been inhabited by Capt. Orice King, a wealthy sea captain and man of public spirit who was held in high esteem in the community.

Another 18th century house obtained by the school was the Oliver Carter House. Oliver Carter was the son of one of the Ephraim Carters and he married Emily Harrington, granddaughter of one of the early Lancaster ministers.

The Carter family played an important role in the town and served as moderators, selectmen and delegates to the General Court. Oliver Carter's two sons, George and Horatio engaged in the printing and publishing business (Carter-Andrew Publishing Company).

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While the individual girls' rooms were small they were ample, providing a bed, chair, bureau and corner closet.

Other cottages constructed

were the Mary E. Lamb Cottage, the Pines Cottage, the Clara Barton Cottage and the Putnam Cottage.

In each cottage the girls shared work chores. They set tables, did dishes and cared for their rooms. Six month courses were taught in the kitchen, laundry and dining room. The Chapel was moved from another location to the Industrial school in 1858.

The barn and sheds were used as maintenance shops and housed state vehicles. In the rear of the barn was the cannery where farm products grown on the grounds were prepared for freezing and canning.

The Campbell Cottage was built in 1935 and was the last cottage to be erected. In 1971, Campbell Cottage became the first facility for a co-educational program in the Youth Services program, serving boys and girls, ages 13 to 16.

In the same year the Thomas Stafford House was acquired and served as a residence for Superintendent Marcus Ames. Extensive restoration was done and it was returned to its earlier appearance.

Today, although the activity of the Industrial School for Girls has been phased down, the facility continues to be used for various penal and community purposes.

Owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the school occupies 279 acres of land lying between the road to Bolton (Old Common Road) and the old turnpike running from Boston to Fitchburg (Still River Road).

The complex comprises a total of 18 structures spread throughout the sprawling campus grounds which are beautifully landscaped and kept in park-like condition.

6

Mass  
History

GAZETTE (E)  
WORCESTER, MASS.  
L. 92,743

NOV 2 1978

New  
England  
Newclip

## Lancaster Industrial School Is Named Historic Place

LANCASTER — the Lancaster Industrial School for Girls which is now a prison prerelease center for men has been included in the National Register of Historic Places.

State Secretary Paul Guzzi who is chairman of the state Historical Commission, said yesterday the school has been accepted for national registration.

The school is the oldest girls' training school in the country and in its day, it was one of the most progressive correctional institutions.

The area is also noteworthy because it has a good collection of 18th, 19th and 20th century buildings, representing early farmhouses and structures built specifically for correction.

In the early days, the school was located on the town common and in 1705 the third meetinghouse was built there. Records also indicate the area was known as "Bridecake Plain" but the origin of the name is unknown.

The school was built in April 1854 with a \$20,000 appropriation from the state legislature. It ceased operating as a girls industrial school in 1971, but is still used for corrective purposes.

The industrial school was progressive in that century because for one thing, each girl was given her own room while those in other schools slept in dormitories. The school was set up not only to teach vocations, but to help emotional disorders which caused the girls to be delinquent.

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/2/76  
Reviewer INITIALS: Bg

KP

NR DOE

OCT 8 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Lancaster Industrial School for Girls

OTHER NAMES: Bridcake Plain (sec)

### LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: SE of Lancaster on Old Common Rd.

CITY, TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th

STATE: Massachusetts VICINITY OF: Lancaster COUNTY: Worcester code: 027

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME): \_\_\_\_\_

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1 EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2 ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3  
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6  
not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable - 9

CONDITION - EXCELLENT - DETERIORATED - UNALTERED - ORIGINAL SITE  
GOOD - RUINS - ALTERED - MOVED (1858 - chapel)  
FAIR - UNEXPOSED - Reconstructed - Unknown  
- Unexcavated - Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

### FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- reform school  
now- reform school

### SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

### Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

Depend girls correctional institution in the U.S.  
It had such institutions and individual girls rooms instead of dormitory living

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

Variety of styles including Federal, Italianate, and Georgian Revival

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

Reverend Bradford P. Pierce, first superintendent, 1854-1862 (also editor of the Methodist publication Gleaner's Herald)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1790-1935  
Late 18th C. -- 1935

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1854 - present

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

70

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~Decorative in style~~ <sup>Complex later</sup> collection of 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings, including ~~representing~~ early farmhouses, and structures built specifically for correctional purposes; ~~the institution~~ <sup>grew</sup> gradually from ~~the~~ its first acquisition in 1854 to the ~~1935~~ building of the last cottage and acquisition of the 1799 Safford House, <sup>and 1905</sup> ~~then 1858~~ ~~school was moved to the school in 1858~~

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

~~built on land which had earlier been the town commons~~  
The ~~Hancock~~ Industrial School for Girls, ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> the oldest U.S. girls' training school in America; and one of the <sup>most</sup> progressive correctional institutions of its ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup>, providing individual rooms for the girls and operating on the ~~farm~~ <sup>farm</sup> system. ~~The~~ School buildings are designed in a variety of 19<sup>th</sup> century styles including Federal, Italianate, and Georgian Revival