

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

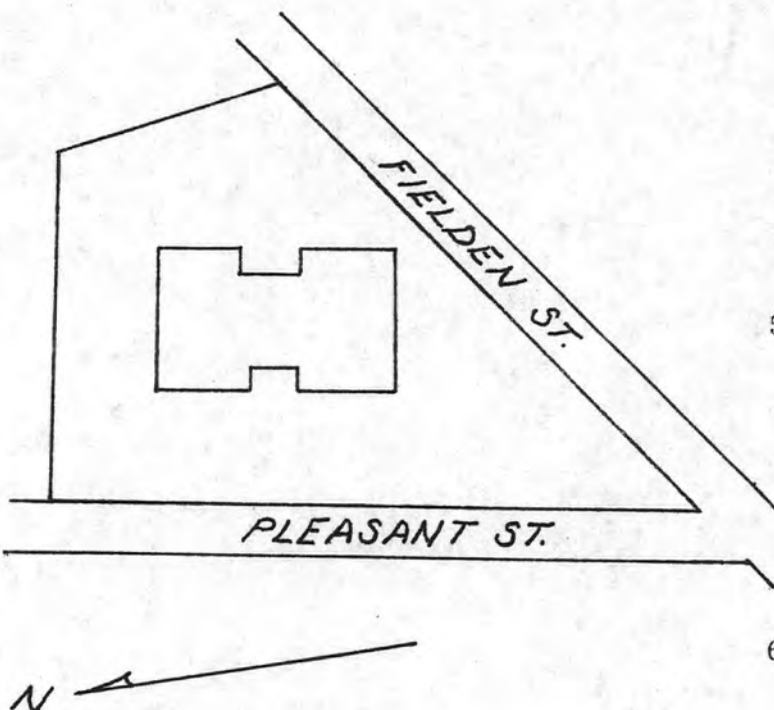
In Area no.

Form no.

111/493

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location  
in relation to nearest cross streets and  
other buildings. Indicate north.



1. Town Fall River, Mass

Address 1975 Pleasant St.

Name Coughlin School

Present use School

Present owner City of Fall River

3. Description: Brick School

Date C.1893

Source Atlas

Style Romanesque

Architect Frank Irving Cooper

(plaque on building)

Exterior wall fabric Brick, masonry

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features Low, hipped roof w/ extended eaves, Belt course Corbelled chimneys

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 30,878 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 100'

Approximate distance of building from street  
25'

6. Recorded by Patricia Giza/Pam Fox

Organization FROHP

Date 1/26/81

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Fall River

Original use School

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |          |                            |          |                         |       |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal            | _____    | Conservation               | _____    | Recreation              | _____ |
| Agricultural          | _____    | Education                  | <u>X</u> | Religion                | _____ |
| Architectural         | <u>X</u> | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____    | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____    | Industry                   | _____    | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce              | _____    | Military                   | _____    | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication         | _____    | Political                  | _____    |                         |       |
| Community development | _____    |                            |          |                         |       |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Coughlin School (1893) is notable as one of several substantial and well-detailed late 19th century brick eight-room grammar schools and as the work of Frank Irving Cooper, a recognized New England expert in school design.

During the 1890's, nine school buildings were erected in Fall River to accommodate the city's expanding population and replace out-dated facilities. The number of schools increased from 42 in 1889, with 182 study rooms and 30 recitation rooms, to about 50 in 1900, for an increase of 64 classrooms. In two cases the school department hired architects who each designed two nearly identical schools, a policy which presumably increased efficiency and reduced cost. Thus the local architect Joseph M. Darling did the twin Davol and Connell Schools about 1892-3 and the Boston architect Frank Irving Cooper, a native of Taunton, was hired to design the very similar Coughlin and Osborn Schools.

Cooper (1867-1933) was widely known in New England as a school architect and was a frequent consultant to local school committees. In two decades of independent practice in Boston he designed numerous college buildings and some 200 elementary and high schools in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as the Bristol County Courthouse in Taunton (1892) and other public buildings. Cooper studied under H.H. Richardson and worked in the offices of Henry Van Brunt and Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge before establishing his own office in 1892.

The Coughlin School opened in 1895 and was praised at the time as "the most convenient and attractive school in the city." The Romanesque detailing and delicate brickwork greatly enliven the sturdy, symmetrical facade. The school was named for Dr. John Coughlin, who practiced medicine in Fall River for 35 years and served three times as Mayor. For twenty years Coughlin was a powerful figure in (cont'd)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Atlas 1895: school shown

1883: no school shown

Water Dept.: Coughlin School, March 28, 1894 #5922

Building Dept.: No record

Fall River School Study, Vol. I, Coughlin School (erected 1893)

Fall River and its Point of Interest, 1896 (source: name of builder)

Providence Journal, Nov. 16, 1964 (clipping)

City Documents 1889-1894- no record of architect

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

17772493

Property Name: Coughlin School

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

state and national Democratic politics, although he was unsuccessful in his candidacies for Lt. Governor and Congressman.

As a distinctive example of the late 19th century brick schoolhouse, well-detailed and largely intact, and as the work of an architect of regional importance, the Coughlin School meets criteria A and C of the National Register, individually.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 4/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 10

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic GroupName Fall River Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. ~~Coughlin School~~~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

2/16/83 *Barbara Dyl*

Attest

32. Crescent Mill

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

33. Davol School

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

34. Davol, William C., Jr., House

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

35. Downtown Fall River Historic District

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

36. Durfee Mills

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

37. Earle, John M., House

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

38. Fall River Bleachery

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

39. First Baptist Church

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

40. Flint Mills

Entered in the  
National Registerfor  
Keeper2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

*Substantive Review*

Coughlin School (Fall River MRA)  
Bristol County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 15/83-15  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84  
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83  
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/83  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria ATC/accept  
Reviewer Mr. [unclear]  
Discipline A.H.  
Date 2-16-83  
☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

|                                    |                                       |                                    |                                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Condition                          |                                       | Check one                          | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                    |                                           |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☒ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

## **8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

## **10. Geographical Data**

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## **11. Form Prepared By**

## **12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



INST. 5-6A

COUGHLIN SCHOOL  
1975 PLEASANT ST.

Fall River MRA, Ma

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279