

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **MAY 23 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Primrose Street Schoolhouse

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 71 Primrose Street N/Anot for publication

city, town Haverhill N/Avicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Architectural Conservation Trust for Massachusetts, Ann Beha, President

street & number 45 School Street

city, town Boston N/Avicinity of state Massachusetts 02108

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Registry of Deeds

street & number 32 Federal Street

city, town Salem, state Massachusetts 01970

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth #250 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Haverhill: Primrose Street School

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Primrose Street Schoolhouse stands on an elevated site at the southeast corner of Primrose and Rose Streets in an area of mixed residential and institutional buildings of the mid and late nineteenth century that has undergone substantial abandonment and demolition.

The former Schoolhouse is a brick structure with a rectangular floor plan that rises from a foundation of rock-faced granite through two full stories to a pitched roof with gable ends at the facade (west) and rear (east) elevations. Window and door openings are rectangular and have granite sills and lintels. Excepting several added windows on the north elevation, sash is 6/6. An enclosed two-story porch of wood-frame construction (ca. 1910) exists at the Building's northeast corner.

The facade (west elevation) is symmetrical, containing a central doorway flanked by two windows at both the first and second stories and a glazed two-leaf door centered on the gable. The first storey entry contains a tri-partite transom and double doors with panelled bases and fixed lights, now concealed by modern coverings. The second storey entry retains a tri-partite transom; however, its double doors have been replaced by modern in-fill and a flush-panel (hollow-core) door. The gable doorway contains an unpanelled double door each half of which contains three lights. The gable is trimmed with a boxed cornice and wide frieze, from which the returns have been removed.

The north elevation is asymmetrical, containing one 1/1 and one 6/6 window per storey as well as a second storey light on the main body of the Building. At the east end of the north elevation is an enclosed two-storey entry porch (ca. 1910) that rests on concrete footings, is covered with matched boarding and is enclosed by a half-hip roof. The west elevation of this porch contains a flush-panel door at its first storey and a damaged four-panel door at its second storey, while the porch's north elevation contains one blocked window at each storey and a small 1/1 window at the second storey.

The east (rear) elevation contains two original windows at the basement, first and second stories as well as two added windows (2/1 - ca. 1910) in the gable. As at the facade, the returns on the roof's boxed cornice and frieze have been removed.

The south elevation is asymmetrical, containing two windows at the basement and three windows at both the first and second stories. The center windows of the first and second stories are set in arched surrounds that were added to the elevation around 1910.

As originally designed, the Primrose Schoolhouse differed from its present appearance in that its facade contained double window (6/6) in the center opening of the second storey, single 6/6 windows in each gable and only two window openings per storey on the north and south elevations. During the Building's conversion to a two-family house in 1910-1913, the facade was altered by the addition of doorways and balconies at the second storey and gable. Also added at this time were the present front doors and transom, the north elevation's enclosed entry porch, an exterior staircase along the north elevation and several new window openings on the north and south elevations; all exterior features appear to have been built of salvage from other Victorian buildings. In addition, the Building's interior was subdivided into rooms that were finished with doors, mantel pieces, wainscots, cornices and other Victorian features that had been taken as salvage from unidentified Victorian buildings. Photographs showing the Building and its details around 1915-1920 have provided documentation for the reproduction of missing features, notably the facade balconies and north staircase which are currently being restored.

8. Significance

Haverhill: Primrose Street School

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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) community development
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1868, ca. 1910-1913 **Builder/Architect** Josiah Littlefield (1868)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Primrose Street Schoolhouse possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship from two important periods in its development. First, it represents (Haverhill's best surviving example) (one of Haverhill's few surviving examples) of a mid-late nineteenth century schoolhouse. Additionally, in its conversion to a two-family residence at the turn of the century by Carmine DePalma it possesses associations with Haverhill's Italian community and reflects changing community development patterns. It also represents a highly personal reuse of interior features from other period buildings. Thus, the building meets criterion C of the NRHP.

Built as a primary school by the City of Haverhill in 1868, the former Primrose Street Schoolhouse was originally identical to several other local schoolhouses built during this period to plans provided by Josiah Littlefield, of which only the Locust Street Schoolhouse remains (now altered). Although conversion to a two-family house in 1910-1913 eliminated the Building's original plan of one classroom and anterooms at each storey, the Building's exterior retains the major elements of its original design in its rectangular plan, gabled facade, deep boxed cornice, 6/6 sash and granite-trimmed brickwork, all of which are characteristic of early and mid-nineteenth century schoolhouse construction. The Primrose Street Schoolhouse remained in use as a primary school from 1868 until the late 1890s, after which it was abandoned and used for the storage of City property until 1909, when deterioration of the structure and vandalism encouraged the City to sell the property to Carmine DePalma.

A native of Italy who had become a successful local shoemaker, DePalma carried out an ambitious and eccentric program of renovation, converting the Building to a two-family house between 1910 and 1913. Added at this time were two balconies on the west elevation, an exterior staircase with ornate turnings on the north elevation and a variety of interior fittings, most of which were taken as salvage from other Victorian buildings. DePalma displayed his patriotic feelings for both the United States and Italy by installing a bronze statue of Christopher Columbus on a pedestal in the front yard and by building two flagpoles painted red, white, blue and green; in addition, a statue of Psyche was also installed in the front yard. Although these features have been removed within recent memory, their whereabouts is unknown. DePalma's financial success was based on a shoemaking and shoe repair business which he established in Bradford, Massachusetts, soon after his arrival in the United States. Praised in contemporary accounts for his frugality, DePalma eventually saved enough money to purchase modern shoe repairing machinery as well as a commercial block on White Street, Haverhill, to which he moved his business and residence in the early twentieth century. Following his renovation of the former Primrose Street Schoolhouse, DePalma and his family lived in the Building's second storey, until DePalma's death in the 1940s. Subsequently, in the 1950s, the building was used as a rental property and later as a nursery school. Most recently the property served as a day-care center and offices for social service agencies until 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Report of the Auditors of Accounts of the Town of Haverhill for the
Fiscal Year Ending January 30, 1869 p.g.

Haverhill Free Gazette. November 7, 1913
Haverhill Public Library - Photograph Collection

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 17,640 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Haverhill, Mass.-N.H.

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	2	9	4	3	0	4	7	3	8	1	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes the original schoolhouse lot purchased by the City of Haverhill in 1867, shown as Parcel #2 on Haverhill Assessors' Map #305, Block #69 (copy of map attached)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Planning Director with
Brian Pfieffer, ACT for Massachusetts

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 7278470

city or town Boston 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 Ratus *Weslowki*

State Historic Preservation Officer,

title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 4/28/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/23/83

for Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

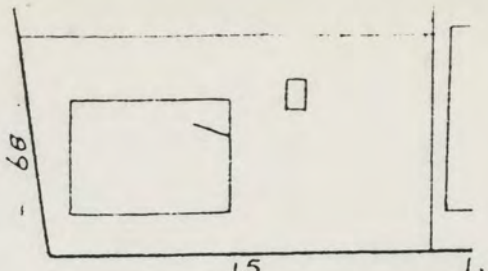
Attest:

date

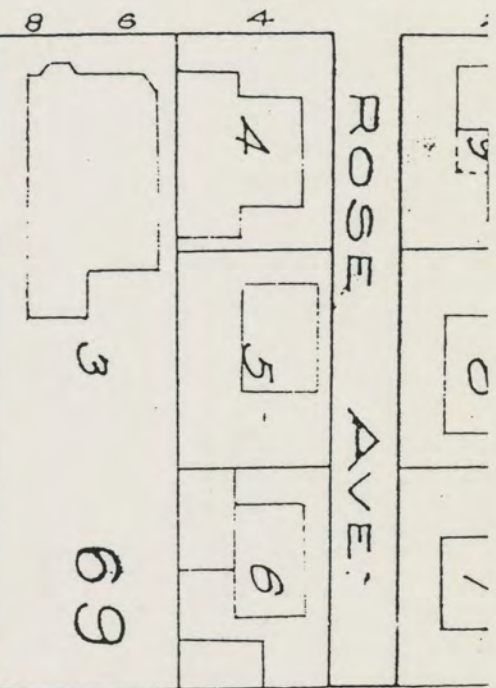
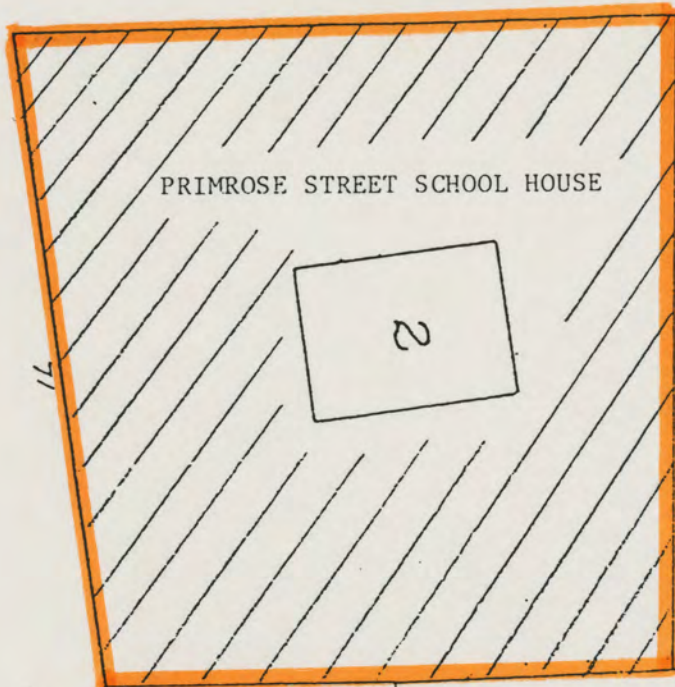
Chief of Registration

PRIMROSE STREET SCHOOL HOUSE
71 Primrose Street
Haverhill, Massachusetts

Haverhill Assessors' Map #305, Block 69
Scale: 1"=40' current to 1/1981



ROSE ST.



ST.

PRIMROSE DEVEL.
CORPORATION

MARQUERITE V.
MELODY ET.AL.

CHARLE

PRIMROSE

SEE PLAN No. 306



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Primrose Street Schoolhouse
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 23 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 6/23/83 - 7/7/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/23/83
 RETURN
Entered in the National Register 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 _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
 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

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT Reference _____

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



Historic Preservation Certification Application
Primrose Street School
Haverhill, Massachusetts

View: North & west elevations taken from a position
facing east

Photographer: Brian Pfeiffer
ACT for Massachusetts
November, 1981

Photo #1 of 2.



Historic Preservation Certification Application
Primrose Street School
Haverhill, Massachusetts

View: North & west elevations taken from a position
facing east - ca. 1920

Photographer: Taken from photograph collection of the
Haverhill Public Library
Haverhill, Massachusetts

Date: ca. 1920

Photo #2 of 2.

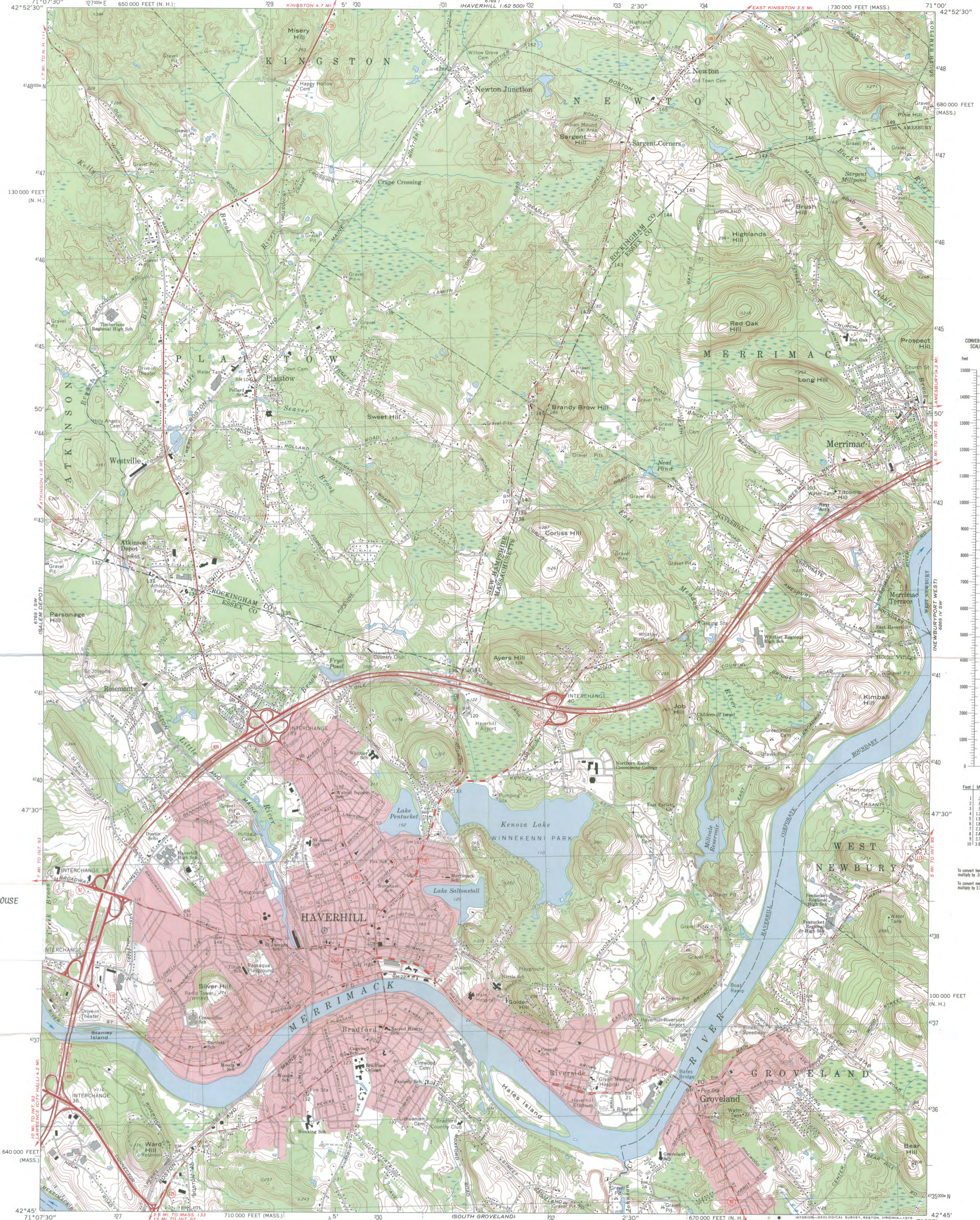
6789 I SE
1:50,000

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

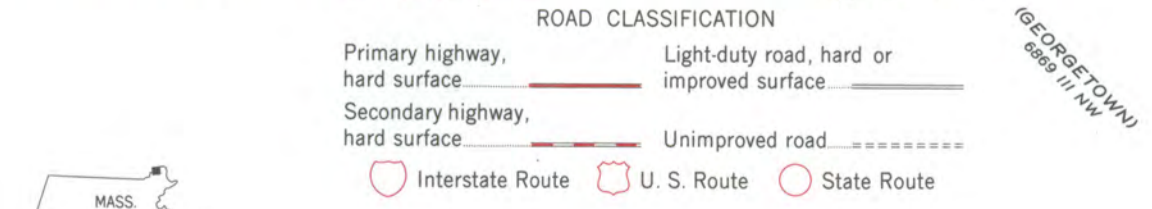
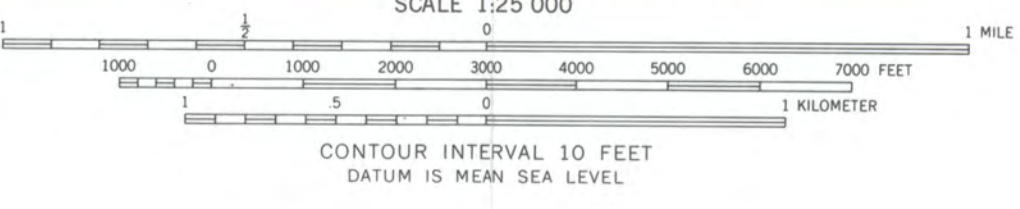
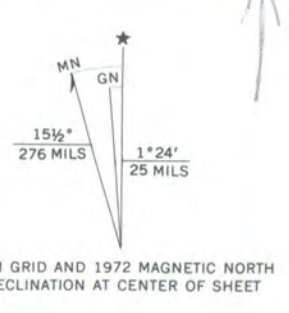
HAVERHILL QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-NEW HAMPSHIRE
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 HAVERHILL 15' QUADRANGLE

6789 IV SW
EASTED



PRIMROSE STREET SCHOOLHOUSE
71 Primrose Street
Haverhill, MA
UTM: 19J329430/4738190

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography in Massachusetts by planetable surveys 1942
Topography in New Hampshire by photogrammetric methods from
aerial photographs taken 1953. Field checked 1955.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19



Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

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

HAVERHILL, MASS.-N. H.
SE/4 HAVERHILL 15' QUADRANGLE
N4245-W7100/7.5
1972

AMS 6789 I SE-SERIES V814
Primrose Street Schoolhouse
Haverhill, Massachusetts