

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received **MAR 18 1982**

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Forest Avenue School

and/or common Little Red School House

2. Location

street & number Concord Avenue ^{N/A} not for publicationcity, town Brockton ^{N/A} vicinity of congressional district 11th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Plymouth code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☒ public quasi	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture ☒ museum
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial ☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational ☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Little Red Schoolhouse Association

street & number P. O. Box 3036

city, town Brockton ^{N/A} vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Russell Street

city, town Plymouth state MA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 9-9-76 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street, Boston, state MA

7. Description

Forest Avenue School

Condition

☒ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site

☒ moved date 1969

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Forest Avenue School was originally located at the busy intersection of Forest Avenue and West Street. It was moved two blocks to its present site in 1969 when a new branch library was scheduled to be built on its original site. The current site is on the grounds of Brockton's 6,000 student High School. Concord Avenue is a terraced drive that runs by the athletic fields to the high school complex. The schoolhouse is located on the inbound side of the terrace and is shaded by trees. Because it is 200 to 300 yards away from the high school itself, it retains its original sense of scale.

The schoolhouse is a two and one half story, wood frame clapboard structure of rectangular plan. It presently sits on a new brick foundation and is enclosed by a gable roof. All windows contain 6/6 double hung sash and have simple molded architraves. The west elevation contains 2 enclosed entries beneath a common shed roof which are reached by a flight of five wooden steps. Two windows are located at the second story level with a sign reading "Forest Ave. School". A single smaller window lights the gable to which is attached a flagpole. The north and south elevations both contain five evenly spaced windows at each story. The second floor classroom retains nineteenth century fittings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Brockton Saves a School", The Massachusetts Teacher, Boston, Massachusetts, January, 1975

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .22

Quadrangle name Brockton

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	3	1	1	5	0	4	6	5	9	3	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

East by Concord Avenue 100', North by Lexington Avenue (paper street) 95'

West by a brook 100'

South by Brockton High School athletic fields 95'. Also refer to the attached map.

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

state MA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director, MHC, with
John R. Wilson, Assistant City Planner

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date 10/80

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston, state Massachusetts

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Peter L. Westbrook

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 2/25/82

For HCRRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☐ architecture	☒ education	☐ military	☐ social
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Built 1875, Moved 1969,
Specific dates: Restored 1969-71 Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Forest Avenue School possess integrity of design, materials and workmanship, and as the oldest extant schoolbuilding in the city, meets criterion A for its association with Brockton's early educational system. When it opened in 1875, it stood in what was then a rural part of the city. The first floor was used for classes while the second floor was used as playspace on rainy days. The second floor was later converted to classroom space and still contains its original fittings.

The school closed in 1963 and stood vacant for more than five years until the city issued a notice that it would be razed and a new branch library constructed on the site. A small group of concerned citizens formed the Little Red Schoolhouse Association to save the school. The group received permission from the city to move the school to its present site providing they could raise the necessary funds. The Association secured promises of money, material and labor from Brockton's merchants and trade unions and in 1969 succeeded in moving the school to the grounds of the new high school where it now serves as an educational museum.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Forest Avenue School
State, County: MA, Plymouth
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3-18-82-808

Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 4-15-82 / 5-2-82

Action: ☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 5/2/82
☐ REJECT

photos ☒
maps ☒

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

It has not been clearly demonstrated that this building meets the exception to the criteria for listing moved buildings

Recom. / Criteria Return
Reviewer Dariusz Andrus
Discipline Historian
Date 4/28/82
☐ 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

Please fill in

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 ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ good ☐ ruins ☐ fair ☐ unexposed
Check one ☐ unaltered ☐ altered
Check one ☐ original site ☐ moved date _____

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)

- _____ This building has not been justified as an exception to the criteria for moved bldgs. The N.R. lists moved bldgs. only when they are significant primarily for architectural value or if it is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event. No architectural significance is claimed and there is insufficient contextual information provided to evaluate the building's significance in the development of the educational system of Brockton. The statement that it is "the oldest extant school building in the city" is not sufficient. Please provide some context for this bld. & the development of the educational system - is it the first school bld., how & when did formal education develop in Brockton, how was this building significant in that development, were there other school buildings built at the same time, define more clearly the community that this building was significant to in terms of size and composition.
- ☒ 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 _____

UNIT 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 _____

Site _____

date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Patrick Andrews

Signed

Bruce M. Dougal

Date

5/2/82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

JUN 7 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Forest Avenue School

and/or common Little Red School House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Concord Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Brockton N/A vicinity of congressional district 11th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Plymouth code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☒ public quasi	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture ☒ museum
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial ☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational ☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ object	N/A in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Little Red Schoolhouse Association

street & number P.O. Box 3036

city, town Brockton N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Russell Street

city, town Plymouth state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the
title Commonwealth #133 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 9/9/76 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington St., Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Forest Avenue School

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☒ moved

date 1969

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Little Red School House was originally located at the intersection of Forest Avenue and West Street. It was moved two blocks to its present site in 1969 when a new branch library was scheduled to be built on its original site. The current site is on the grounds of Brockton's 6,000 student High School. Concord Avenue is a terraced drive that runs by the athletic fields to the high school complex. The schoolhouse is located on the inbound side of the terrace and is shaded by trees. Because it is 200 to 300 yards away from the high school itself, it retains its original sense of scale.

The schoolhouse is a two and one half story, wood frame clapboard structure of rectangular plan. It presently sits on a new brick foundation and is enclosed by a gable roof. All windows contain 6/6 double hung sash and have simple molded architraves. The west elevation contains 2 enclosed entries beneath a common shed roof which are reached by a flight of five wooden steps. Two windows are located at the second story level with a sign reading "Forest Ave. School." A single smaller window lights the gable to which is attached a flagpole. The north and south elevations both contain five evenly spaced windows at each story. The second floor classroom retains nineteenth century fittings.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☒ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates	Built, 1875 Restored, 1969-1971	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Little Red School House possesses integrity of design, materials, and workmanship as well as associations with Brockton's early educational system and the beginnings of the city's major period of development. It is a rare and well preserved example of a two-story, wood frame schoolhouse, built during a time when this building type was evolving from a one-story, wood frame form to a two story on high basement, masonry form. Additionally, it is the oldest extant school in Brockton. Records indicate that 14 school districts were operating by 1884, 10 of which had one room schools dating from the 1840's and 1850's. None of these earlier schools survive. Thus, the Little Red School House meets criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Little Red School House was constructed in 1875, the year after Brockton changed its name from North Bridgewater. That renaming underscored the community's growing role as a regional center due to the rapid expansion of its shoe industry. When it opened, the Little Red School House stood in what was then a rural section, southwest of the town center. Its first floor was used for classes while the second floor was used as playspace on rainy days. The second floor was later converted to classrooms and still retains its original fittings. The schoolhouse is the only one remaining from the city's early period of expansion.

The school closed in 1963 and stood vacant for more than five years until the city issued a notice that it would be razed and a new branch library constructed on the site. A small group of concerned citizens formed the Little Red Schoolhouse Association to save the school. The group received permission from the city to move the school to its present site providing they could raise the necessary funds. The Association secured promises of money, material and labor from Brockton's merchants and trade unions and in 1969 succeeded in moving the school to the grounds of the new high school where it now serves as an educational museum.

Although the Little Red School House has been moved two blocks from its original site, it continues to meet the NR criteria due to the rarity of its form and the fact that it is the oldest extant school in the city, thus illustrating an early form of public architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Brockton Saves A School", The Massachusetts Teacher, Boston, Massachusetts, January, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .22

Quadrangle name Brockton

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 9 3 3 1 1 5 0 4 6 5 9 3 3 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

East by Concord Avenue 100', North by Lexington Avenue (Paper Street) 95'

West by a brook 100'

South by Brockton High School athletic fields 95'. Also refer to the attached map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director, Mass. Historical Commission, with
John R. Wilson, Assistant City Planner

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date 10/80

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Patricia L. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 2/25/82

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Bralman

date 7.15.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*

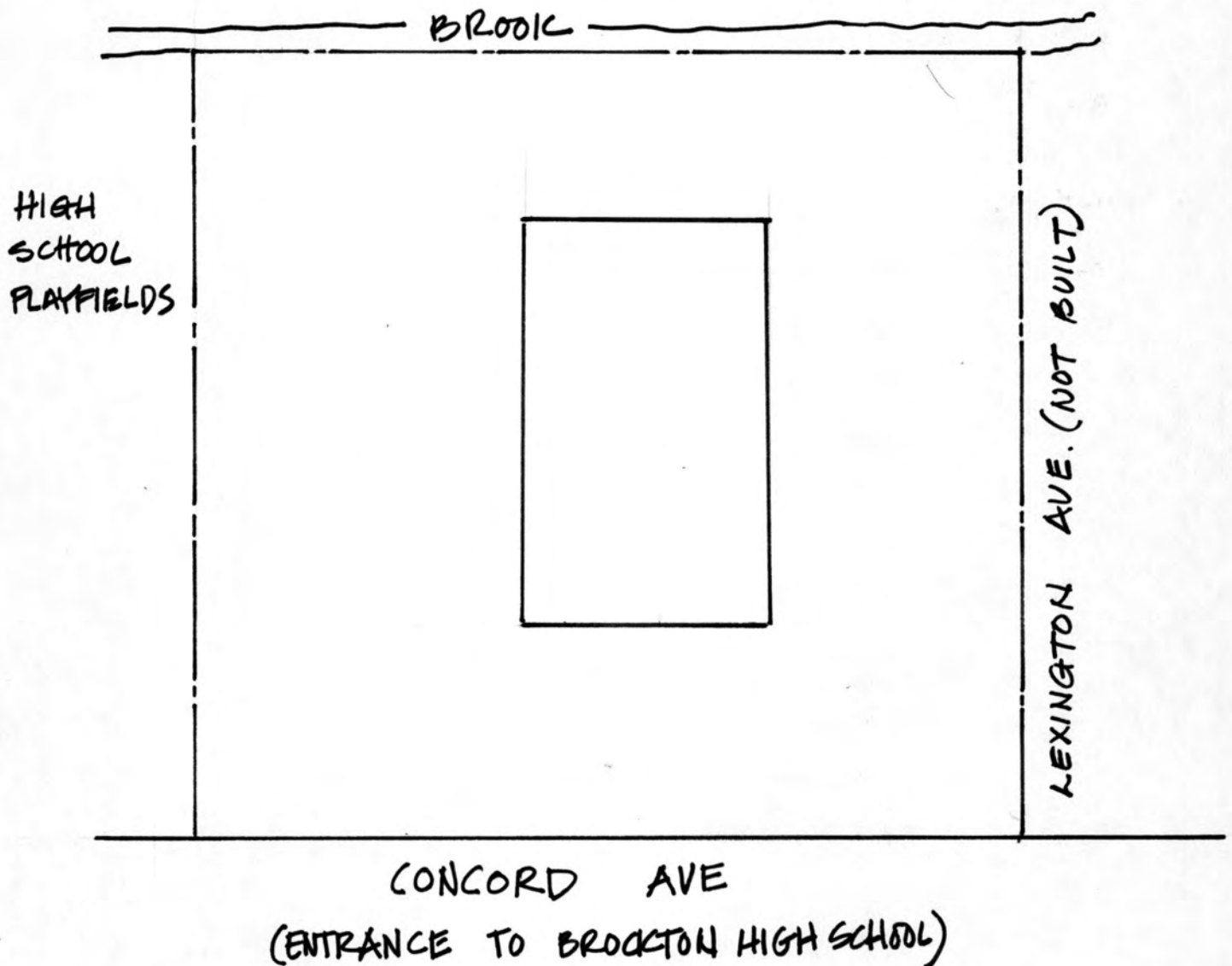
date 7/14/82

Chief of Registration

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

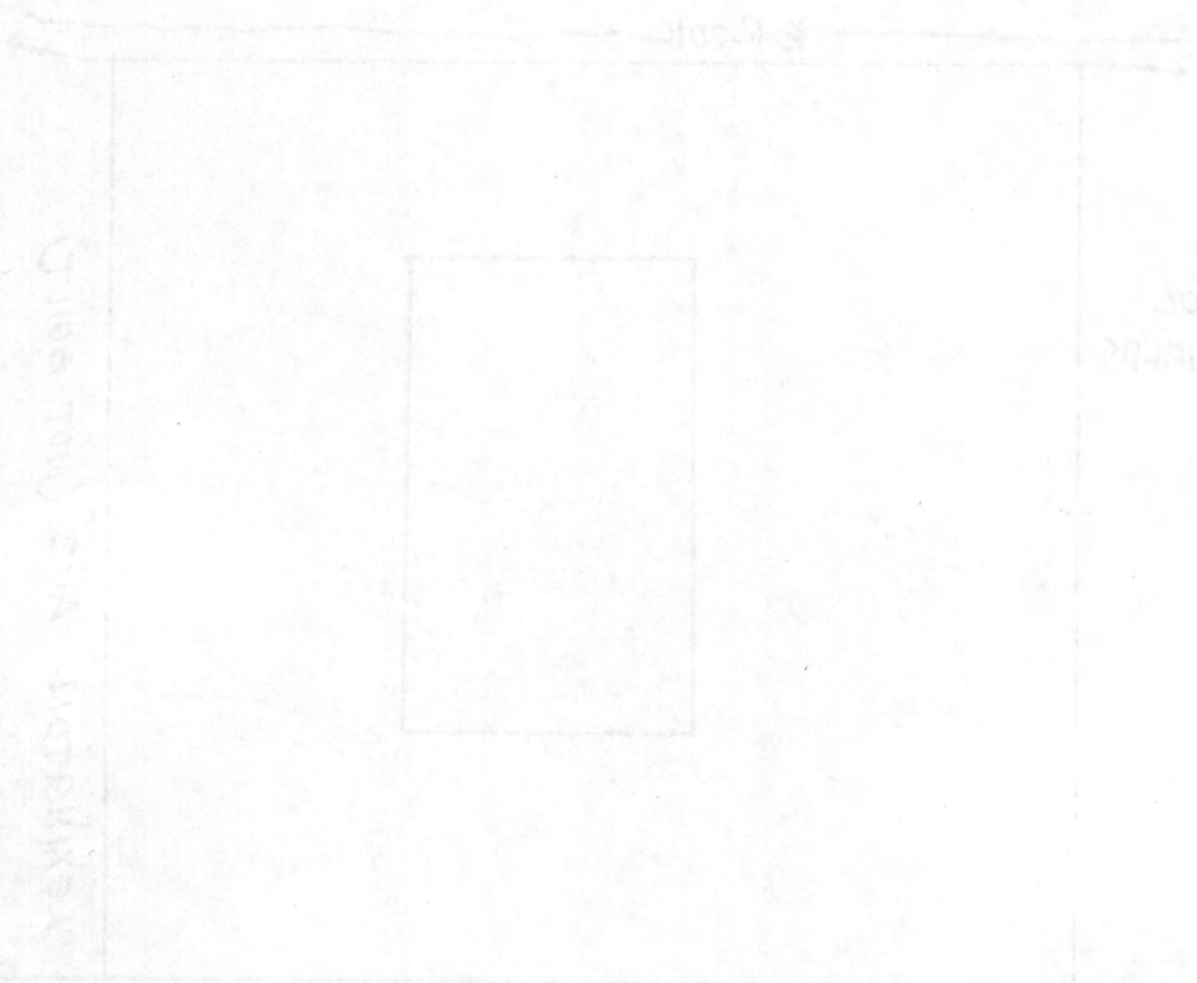
SCALE 1" = 20'



LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

PROJECT 4, WASHINGTON, D.C.

DATE 1-20-82



(CONCEPT) AVE
(DISTANCE TO BROADWAY HIGHWAY)

MAR 15 1982
JUN 7 1982

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Substantive Review
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Property: Forest Avenue School
State, County: MA, Plymouth
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3.18.82-808
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 7/2/82
Action: ☒ **ACCEPT** 7/15/82
☐ **RETURN**
☐ **REJECT**

photos ☒
maps ☒

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

requested
Additional information has been provided - they have justified the building as meeting the exception to the criteria for moved buildings

Recom./Criteria accept AEC
Reviewer Pattick Andrus
Discipline Historian
Date 7/14/82
☐ 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**

☒ **Representation in Existing Surveys**

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS 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



BAUMAN PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

46 Breer Street
Brockton, Mass. 02401
Tel. 586-3393

Re-order No. 1

Date: November 1979

Photo Information Little Red

Schoolhouse.

BROCKTON, MA
Little Red Schoolhouse

East and south
elevations
Bauman Photography,
November 1978
Negative with photograph-
er, 46 Breer St,
Brockton

1 of 2

JUN 7 1982



BAUMAN PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

46 Breer Street
Brockton, Mass. 02401
Tel. 586-3393

Re-order No. 2

Date: November 1978

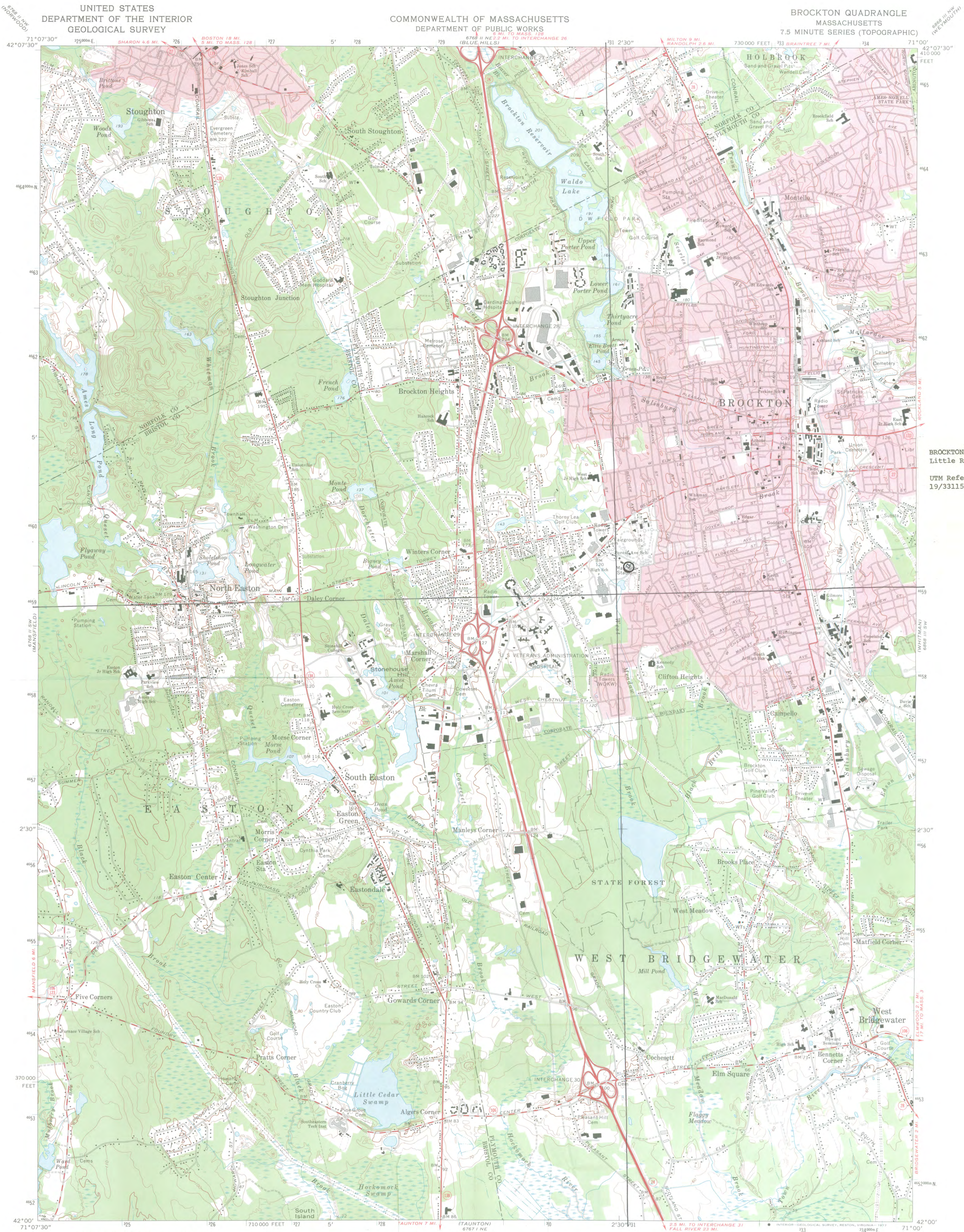
Photo Information

Little Red Schoolhouse

BROCKTON, MA
Little Red Schoolhouse

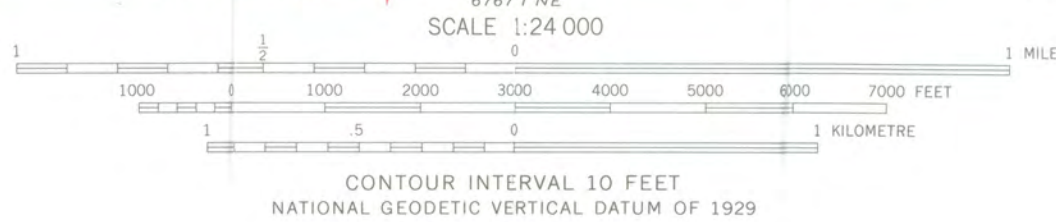
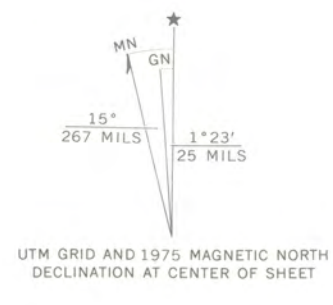
East and north
elevations
Bauman Photography
November 1978
Negative with photog-
rapher, 46 Breer St,
Brockton

JUN 7 1982



BROCKTON, MA
Little Red Schoolhouse
UTM Reference:
19/331150/4659330

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1936. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975.
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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
Unimproved road

BROCKTON, MASS.
N4200-W7100/7.5

1975

AMS 6768 II SE-SERIES V814

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

136
MAY 18 1982
JUN 7 1982



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

May 28, 1982

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Acting Keeper
Division of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
440 G. St.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed are two National Register nomination forms which were returned to us earlier this month for technical and substantive corrections. The substantive corrections include the following:

- ✓ Brockton - Little Red School House
Section 8 has been expanded to include more information on the school's role within the community, as well as a statement of its architectural significance. This analysis is based on the recently completed state survey of the South-eastern Massachusetts region. It is hoped that this information will justify the 1969 move of two blocks.

Northfield - Northfield Main Street Historic District

Several areas of significance, checked on the top of Section 8 have been deleted leaving pre-historic and historic archaeology, architecture and exploration/settlement.

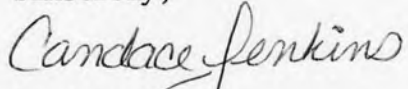
Criterion D has been deleted since no sites have actually been located or evaluated although the potential for their existence is high.

The National Register staff question on the content of Section 8 appears to be based on a misunderstanding. The additional information submitted on a continuation sheet in December 1980 was incorporated into the form before it was resubmitted in February, 1982. Therefore, the only change we have made at this time is to add a paragraph explaining the potential for historic archaeological remains.

The two maps submitted were intended to compare the boundaries of the proposed National Register district with the existing local historic district. The NR boundaries are shown on both maps and are the same on both maps. The properties numbered 1, 2, 3, and 135 were deleted from the NR district because 2, 3, and 135 are less than 50 years old, and they separate #1 from the rest of the district.

We hope that these two nominations can now be listed in the National Register.
If there are any other questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candace Jenkins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/sac