

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 4 1984

date entered JUL 5 1984

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

1. Name

historic Martin W. Carr School

and/or common Carr School

2. Location

street & number 25 Atherton Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Somerville

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Middlesex

code 017

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Carr School Limited Partnership (Joyce Meschan, Michael Robinson, William Gaynor
General Partners)

street & number 219 Concord Avenue

city, town Cambridge

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Thorndike Street

city, town Cambridge

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Assets
of The Commonwealth #70

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description Carr School, Somerville, MA

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Martin W. Carr School of 1898 is a handsome institutional example of Renaissance and Colonial Revival style architecture. The three-story brick building faces south on Atherton Street, two short blocks from the busy arterial of Somerville Avenue. At the north the school is bounded by Cleveland Street, and at the west by Harvard Street. The freestanding building is situated on a level .68 acre site on the southern slope of Spring Hill, and is set back approximately 50 feet from Atherton Street.

At present, the school is surrounded by an asphalt playground at the west. (Photo 1). To the east, along Atherton, is a densely-built block of one and two-family houses. Immediately to the north, south and west is a relatively intact residential neighborhood with stylish mid-nineteenth century single-family houses and later two-family house and apartment buildings. From the school site and from inside the building there are excellent views of Cambridge to the south, particularly of the towers of Memorial Hall and the surrounding buildings at Harvard University.

The H-shape plan is symmetrically organized with two classroom wings flanking a central hall and two-story grand staircase. Basement to third-story stairs are located at the north and south ends of the wing central hall. The south of the school faces the street and serves as the main facade. The building rests on a rough faced granite sill and buttressed basement walls which rise to the first brick belt courses of the rusticated first story. The basement is lit by simple segmental-arched windows. The school is finished entirely with red brick laid in common running bond. Granite trim is used at the entrances, at window sills, and in one continuous belt course between the second and third stories. Second and third story windows are vertically aligned and are grouped in arcades; they contain 8/2 sash on major elevations. At the first story, twelve identical brick belt courses rusticate the surface and accentuate the brick voussoirs of the rectangular windows. Third story windows are uniformly round-arched, with deep brick surrounds. The hip roof is slate-covered and a single chimney rises from the north wing. The wooden cornice has a continuous treatment of dentils and modillions. (Photos 2 and 3).

The main facade (south) has a central entry pavilion trimmed in granite and flanked by shallow, paired pilasters. (Photo 4). The double entry is lit by a traceried fanlight and flanking rectangular windows. The entrance is spanned by a granite panel described with the words "Martin W. Carr". There are two simple rondels in the spandrels. Above the pavilion rise a pair of rectangular windows and a prominent Palladian-motif window. Although this central pavilion does not project, as is the case with many other school designs of the period, it does provide a strong organizing focus for the facade. It is flanked by three windows at each story on each side whose configuration have already been described (Cont.)

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Continuation sheet Martin W. Carr School

Item number 7

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Physical appearance (cont.)

The west facade, facing the playground, opens to the grand staircase and the central hall. The entry echoes the treatment of the main facade. The central portion of the elevation, which is deeply recessed, is organized by a prominent arcade; the upper story is lit by Palladin-motif windows which contain sash with heavy mullions. The elaborate treatment gives the building a second facade, oriented to the playground rather than the street.

8. Significance

Martin W. Carr School 35 Atherton Street, Somerville, MA

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates erected in 1898 **Builder/Architect** Aaron H. Gould, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Martin W. Carr School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. It is a well-designed and preserved example of Renaissance and Colonial Revival institutional architecture, and is the only surviving work of local architect Aaron H. Gould in Somerville. Built on the site of the earlier Spring Hill Primary School (1850) and the First Baptist Church (1852), it has associations with the development of the Spring Hill area, one of Somerville's earliest residential subdivisions (1847). As an imposing public building, it reflects the expansion of City facilities to meet the strong population growth at the turn of the century. Thus, the Carr School meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Carr School was opened in 1898 to serve as a 14-room grade school. Two additional rooms were devoted to manual training facilities used by upper grades. The Carr was the first H-plan school in Somerville. This modern plan allowed maximum light and air into the classrooms. Gould's Ellis School (1898) and the Kelley School (1902, razed) both in Cambridge, evidence the H-plan and similar exterior treatment. Although originally considered spacious, the School Report of 1901 noted that the building was already becoming seriously crowded. When opened, the Carr was one of 24 schools in the city and accommodated 700 pupils. Somerville's schools served a population which rose from 40,152 in 1890 to 61,643 in 1900.

Martin W. Carr (1892–1902), for whom the building is named, was president of M.W. Carr and Company, a Somerville jewelry manufacturing firm with a national market. Carr served as an alderman and as a member of the School Committee. He resided on Craigie Street, at the edge of the Spring Hill neighborhood.

The immediate neighborhood was platted in the mid-nineteenth century as a railroad commuter's suburb, intended primarily for Boston businessmen. The Carr School was among the last additions to the area. The Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire Style single-family houses which surround the school site are testament to Spring Hill's early period of significance. Opposite the school to the south is the "Round House" built by inventor Enoch Robinson in 1856. (Cont.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Withey, Henry & Elsie Biographical Dictionary of American Architects; Los Angeles, Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc. 1970
 Samuels, Edward A. Somerville: Past and Present. Boston: Samuels and Kimball Co., 1897
 Somerville Annual Report 1898-1901
 Zellie, Carol. Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, MA

10. Geographical Data

Somerville: O.P.D.C., 1982.

Acreage of nominated property 29 402 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Boston North, Mass.

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

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3	2	6	4	9	0
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4	6	9	4	4	3	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Nominated property includes entire parcel of land on which the building is sited.
 See attached map for delineation of bounds.

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

state	code	county	code
state	N/A	county	code

state	N/A	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Director of Preservation Planning Carol Zellie, Landscape Research
Madison, Wisconsin

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 1984

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Patricia R. W. [Signature]*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/23/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

7/5/84

John [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Martin W. Carr School Item number 8 Page 1

The City's earliest public buildings of architectural significance included the Latin High School (1871) by Samuel J.F. Thayer; the Central Engine House (1871) by Shepherd S. Woodcock, and the Police Station (1874) by G.A. Clough. Designed in the Victorian Gothic Style, with steep roofs capped by iron ceasting, all have been razed or altered. The razed Romanesque Revival Public Library (1884) by George F. Loring was the major public building of the 1880's. Renaissance Revival and Queen Anne Style designs were favored by the architects of Somerville's public commissions of the 1890's, notably the now-altered English High School (1895) by Hartwell and Richardson.

Aaron H. Gould (1865-1930) was born in Nova Scotia. Trained as a carpenter, he worked on large hotel and residential projects in Maine and in the South before moving to Somerville in the 1890's. He resided at 50 Columbus Avenue, in a Colonial Revival house of his own design, and maintained an office there and at 42 Court Street, Boston. Gould was responsible of major public projects in Somerville including the now-razed Central Fire Station (1895) and the City Stables and Water Department (1898). Among unexecuted proposals of note is the Somerville Armory Plan (1986), a monumental structure with crenellated towers which would have re-used a portion of the Victorian Gothic Style Fire Station of 1871. Gould also did a substantial amount of work for the City of Cambridge during this period; the North Cambridge Fire Station (1896) is an extant example of his work there.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Carr, Martin W., School
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-89

Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-19-84

Action: ACCEPT 7-5-84

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- 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*)

- 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 _____

UTM 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: _____



Martin W. Carr School
Somerville, MA

Photo 1 west elevation (left)
south elevation(right)

Photographer: Michael Robinson

Negatives on File: Vision, Inc.
219 Concord Ave. Cambridge,
MA
March 1984



Martin W. Carr School
Somerville, MA

Photo 2 first story window and
exterior detail

Photographer: Michael Robinson

Negatives on File: Vision, Inc.
219 Concord Ave. Cambridge,
MA

March 1984



Martin W. Carr School
Somerville, MA

Photo 3 third story window detail

Photographer: Michael Robinson

Negatives on File: Vision, Inc.
219 Concord Ave. Cambridge,
MA

March 1984



Martin W. Carr School
Somerville, MA

Photo 4 south elevation (main)

Photographer: Michael Robinson

Negatives on File: Vision, Inc.
219 Concord Ave. Cambridge,
MA

March 1984



Martin W. Carr School
Somerville, MA
Photo 5 east elevation (detail)

Photographer: Michael Robinson

Negatives on File: Vision, Inc.
219 Concord Ave. Cambridge,
MA

March 1984



Martin W. Carr School
Somerville, MA

Photo 6 interior stair detail

Photographer: Michael Robinson

Negatives on File: Vision, Inc.
219 Concord Ave. Cambridge,
MA

March 1984

Scale:

Sanborn Map, 1983

253

260

1" = 100'

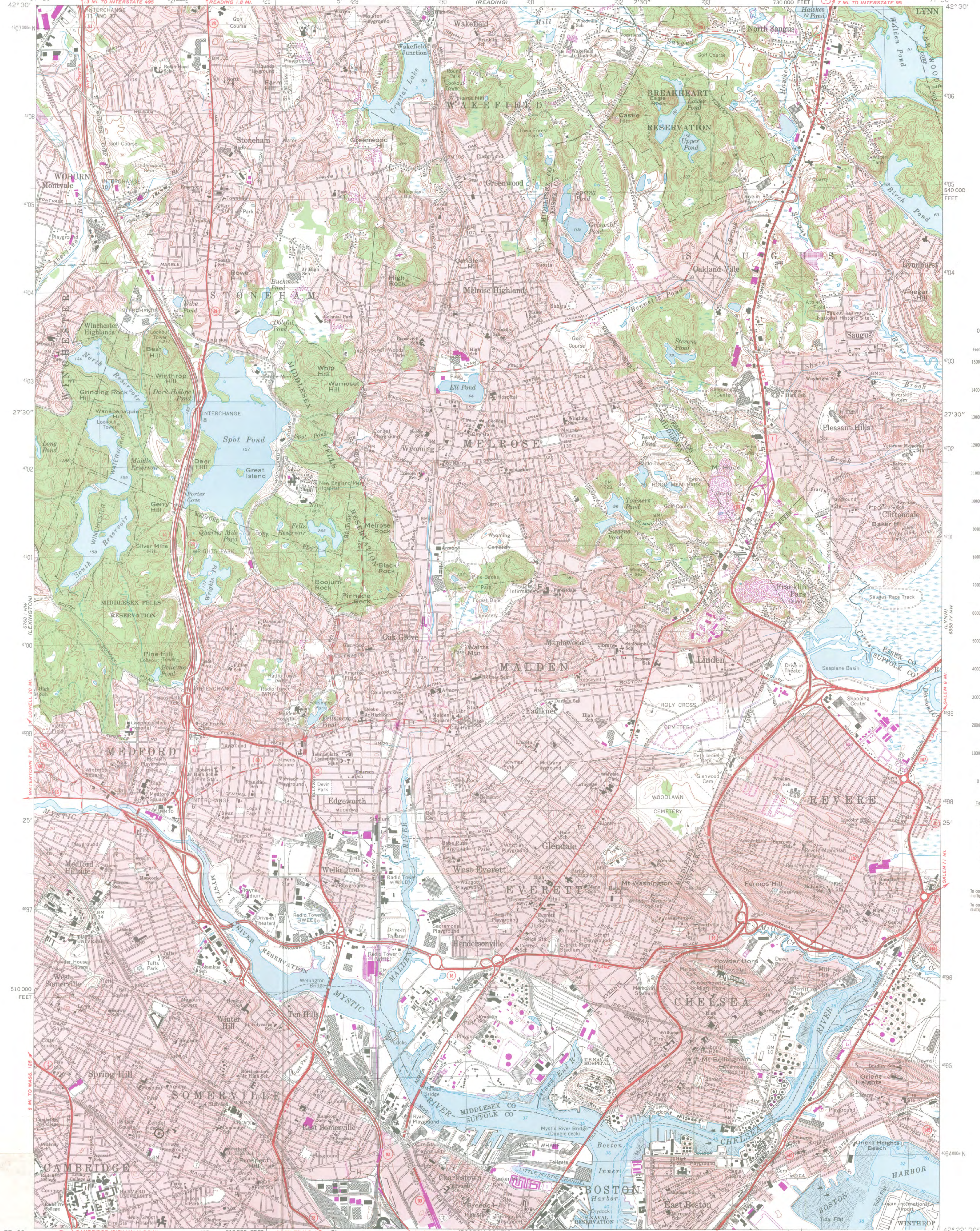


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265

SCALE OF FEET
0 50 100
COPYRIGHT SANBORN MAP COMPANY, INC.



Martin W. Carr School
36 Atherton Street
Somerville, MA

UTM:
19/326490/4694430

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
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-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater area from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

SCALE 1:25 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5

1971
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES V814