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DATE ENTERED

COPY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hancock School

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

33 Forest Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDEN
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Lexington

STREET & NUMBER

1625 Massachusetts Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts 02141

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston,

Massachusetts 02108

STATE

77 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 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

Hancock School is a free standing three-story block located at the northeast corner of Forest and Clark Streets southwest of Lexington Center. It is set in a predominantly residential area at the base of Belfry Hill. The main ornamental facade of Hancock School faces north towards Massachusetts Avenue and was originally designed to be seen by approach from Clark Street which is now one-way onto Massachusetts Avenue. A secondary front faces onto Forest Street. The school's playground is between the building and Belfry Hill. The porte-cochere on the rear elevation which originally shielded pupils arriving by carriage is now adjacent to a long black-topped parking lot.

Hancock School is set on a granite foundation and rises from a basic rectangular plan. Exterior materials include common bond red brick for the walls and painted wood and sandstone for trim. All window sash is painted wood. Ornamental brick bond patterns accent the wall fabric around the entrance porches and windows and in decorative panels on the long elevations. The steeply pitched roof and dormers are entirely covered in gray slate and trimmed with copper as are the shed roofed entrance porches and porte-cochere. Two interior brick chimneys project through the roof.

The facade of Hancock School is dominated by two large staircase towers, one round, the other square, which rise the height of the building and are topped by pointed roofs. Each adjoin a one-story entrance porch with arched brick windows and entrance-ways which are trimmed with sandstone and iron grillwork. Both towers contain small windows at ground level which are topped by a sandstone belt course. Four rectangular windows, one with 1/4/2 sash and three with 4/8/2 sash, are located on the first story between the towers. They are surmounted by another sandstone belt course and four arched sandstone trimmed windows, one with 1/4/1 sash, and three with 15/8/2 sash. A carved stone panel reading "Hancock School 1891" is centrally situated on the round tower between the first and second stories. Three windows with 9/9, 15/15, 9/9 sash respectively are decoratively framed in a Palladian pattern in brick and sandstone on the second story. A similar, but less elaborate tri-partite window arrangement is used on the second story of the square tower. A single arched sandstone trimmed window with 15/8/2 sash flanks the building's second story and a series of short arched sandstone trimmed windows with 3/6/2 sash project from the roof between the towers.

fenestration on the rear and side elevations is symmetrical. Three flat arched windows with 2/8/2 sash flank each side of the central porte-cochere between the pavilions. They are surmounted by identical windows on the second story. On the second story above the porte-cochere is a single 12/6/2 window beneath which is a small side segmentally arched window. The corner pavilions consist of a series of three flat arched windows with 8/8/2 sash which are surmounted by a series of three arched sandstone trimmed window with 6/8/2 sash. Each corner of the pavilions contains a narrow flat arched window with 2/4/1 sash on the first story and a narrow arched sandstone trimmed window with 1/4/1 sash on the second story. Each side elevation contains three flat arched windows with 4/8/2 sash and one flat arched window with 2/4/2 sash along the first story.

Form No 10-300a
(Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

They are surmounted by three arched sandstone trimmed windows with 13/8/2 sash and one arched sandstone trimmed window with 6/4/2 sash. Sandstone belt courses extend around the building's rear and side elevations at levels beneath the larger first and second story windows. Five steeply pitched hipped dormers containing paired windows project from the rear elevation and the roof's side elevations each contain another steeply pitched hipped dormer also containing paired windows.

The basement of the building stands some five feet above grade with basement windows topped by segmental arches of brick headers. The basement is entered down a series of steps on the west elevation and was planned for "heating apparatus, the sanitary apartments, separate play-rooms for boys and girls and a... room, or shop which can be used for a beginning in manual training."

The first and second stories contain several classrooms which all have southerly exposure for sunlight during instruction periods. The classrooms open onto a long corridor on the northerly side of the building in which there are coatrooms and an area for teachers to supervise the coming and going of pupils. On the third floor is a hall large enough to seat the entire school, and under each gable are two rooms which originally were intended for sewing and cooking. The building's interior finish is relatively plain.

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 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 **1890-1891**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Hartwell and Richardson**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hancock School has been serving children in Lexington's primary and secondary grades longer than any extant educational building in the town. Architecturally, it is among Lexington's best examples of Romanesque Revival public buildings. The school was designed in 1890 by Henry Walder Hartwell (1813-1919) and William Cummings Richardson (1854-1935), prolific suburban architects in the Boston area whose popularity peaked in the 1880's and 1890's. Examples of their numerous works include: Boston's First Spiritual Temple (Exeter Street Theater, extant) Belmont Town Hall (extant), Boston's Normal Art School (demolished), and Acton Memorial Library (extant). All of these buildings, like Hancock School, were built during the period of Henry Hobson Richardson's greatest influence. Hancock School, however, is among the firm's more eclectic interpretations of Romanesque Revival architecture as evidenced by the unusual ornamental masonry and the imaginative design of the facade. In addition it is one of the best preserved examples of the firm's school architecture in any greater Boston community.

Hancock School's original building committee stated: "Our aim has been, first of all, for utility, healthfulness, and convenience; at the same time we have not been unmindful that correct proportions and architectural taste not only have an educating influence upon boys and girls, but tend to elevate the tone of the whole community." The enduringly fine quality of the school's design and construction has lived up to the building committee's initial expectations, and continues to foster great admiration and devotion to the school by alumni and families whose children find fascination in its special ambience which is in all probability unique and irreplaceable.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hartwell, Henry W., School Architecture, American Institute of Architects, New Hampshire, July 10, 1896.

Report of the Committee Appointed to Consider the Subject of Building a New School-House for the Hancock School, Lexington, Massachusetts, Boston, 1890.

Vogel, Susan, "Hartwell and Richardson; An Introduction to Their Work," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, May, 1973

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	316420	4701620	B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Judy Dobbs, National Register Editor, and John Herzan

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

July 1975

STREET & NUMBER

40 Beacon Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

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

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

July 5, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No 10-301a
(Rev 10-7-1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hancock School

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

Massachusetts

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Raymond B. Barnes

DATE OF PHOTO

March 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

59 Gleason Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Facade, facing north

1

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Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington,

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

Massachusetts

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Raymond Barnes

DATE OF PHOTO

March 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

59 Gleason Road, Lexington, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Rear, south elevation

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev 10-77)

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Same

2 LOCATION

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Lexington

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Middlesex

STATE
Massachusetts

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Raymond Barnes

DATE OF PHOTO

March 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

59 Gleason Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

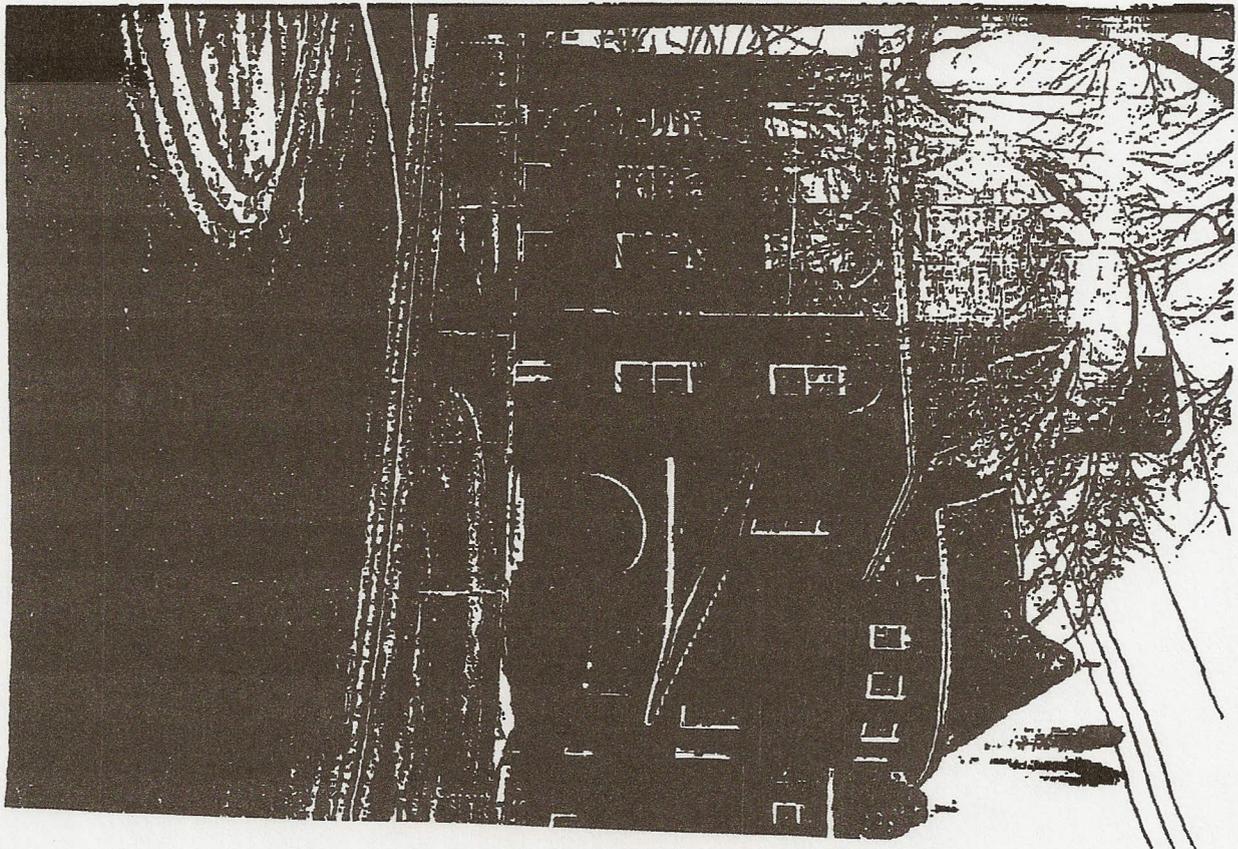
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

East elevation

3



Form No 10-391a
rev 10-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Hancock School

AND/OR COMMON Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE Massachusetts

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Raymond Barnes

DATE OF PHOTO March 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT 59 Gleason Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

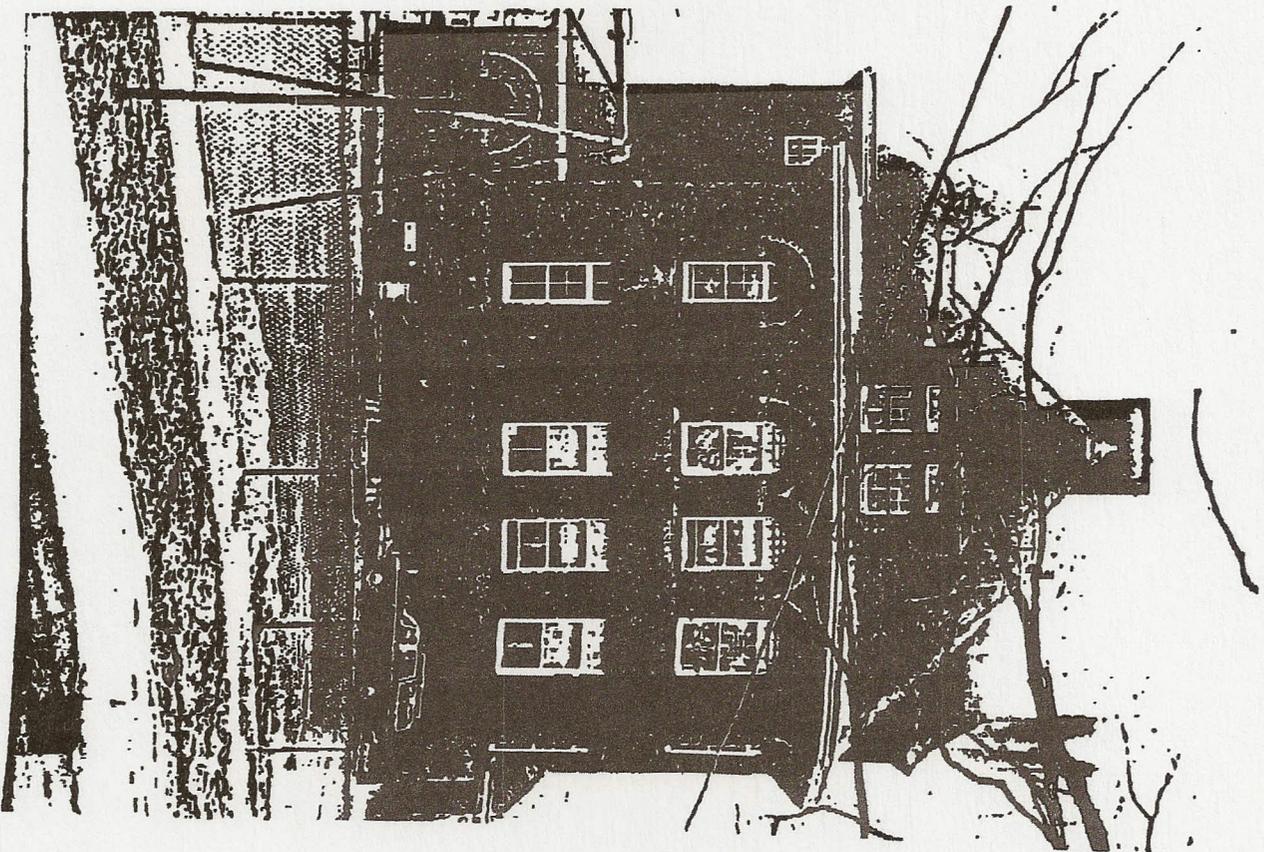
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

West elevation

4



Form No. 10-994
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hancock School

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

Massachusetts

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S. Geological Survey

SCALE

1:24000

DATE

1971

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hancock School

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

Sketch map

SCALE

1" = 100'

DATE

1975

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS





COMMON

Minute-Man

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

LIBRARY

CHURCH

1" = 100'

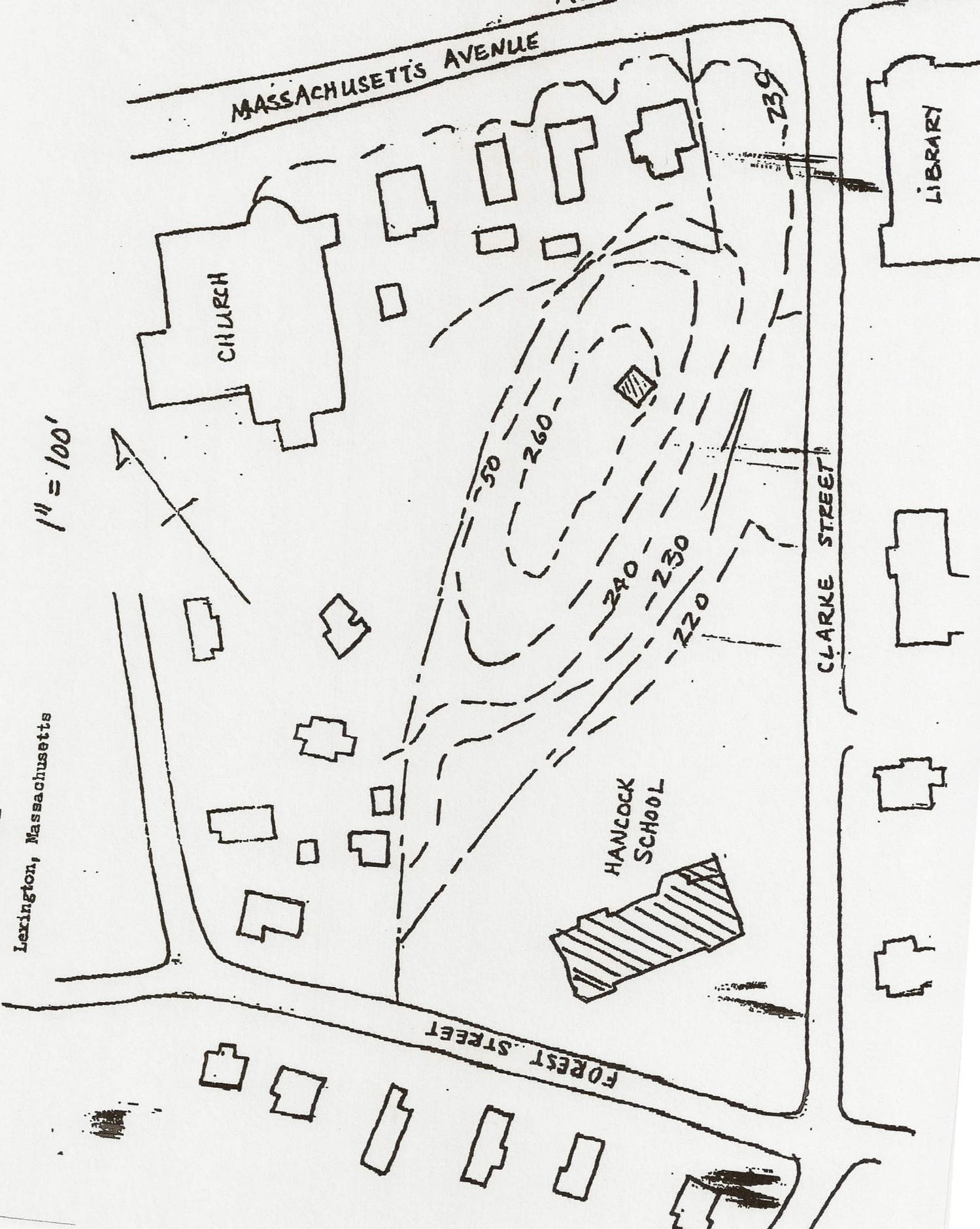
CLARKE STREET

HANCOCK SCHOOL

Lexington, Massachusetts

HANCOCK SCHOOL

FOREST STREET





19 MI TO U.S. 1
12.1 MI TO INTERCHANGE 45

27'30"

1100

6768 IV NE
(CONCORD) CONCORD 6 MI

Lexington: Hancock School
UTM Reference:
19/316420/4701620