

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
10-14/101/40	Lawrence		487

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISEY BLVD.
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town Methuen



(neighborhood or village) _____

46 Ashford Street

name Ashford Street School

type school

classification school

year of construction 1913

reference Annual School Report

style Colonial Revival

builder James E. Allen

notes _____

Foundation not visible

Wall/Trim brick/stone

Roof not visible

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) 3rd story rear addition

(circa 1930s); windows replaced (ca. 1990);

parapet removed & southwest addition (ca. 1980s)

Condition good

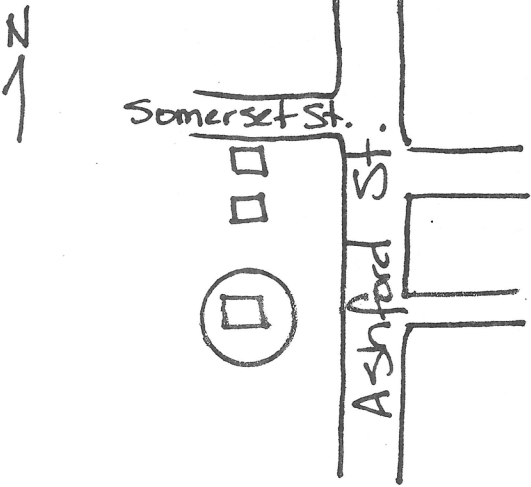
Moved no yes Date _____

Acreage 1.61 acres

Setting residential neighborhood of primarily early

20th century houses on small lots; playing

fields in back of school



Recorded by Tremont Preservation Services

Organization Methuen Historical Commission

Date (month/year) January, 1996

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Ashford Street School is a brick educational building with an L-shaped plan. It was designed in the Colonial Revival style. Rising three stories, it is 15 bays wide at the principal facade (east) and approximately five bays deep (original block). The roof is flat and has one interior chimney rising from the center of the roof. As originally constructed, the school included only the front portion (5 bays deep). It also had a brick parapet with segmental arches over the principal bays of windows. Notable architectural features include continuous limestone sills, limestone entry hoods in the form of elliptical arches set on brackets, and recessed brick panels between floors. Limestone is also used for third floor lintels with keystones (in principal entry bays). The entry bays are also defined by inset limestone molding flanking the bay vertically. The three-story rear addition has similar detailing to the original block, with brick sheathing, continuous sills, and recessed panels between floors. There is a more recent single-story wood-frame addition off the southwest corner of the school. This is one of about ten early twentieth century schools, most of which were designed in a similar style by the same architect, in Methuen.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Ashford Street School was constructed in 1913 to accommodate the growing school age population in the southeast corner of town. As originally constructed, it contained six classrooms and a meeting hall. It was designed by James E. Allen of Lawrence who designed most of Methuen's schools, including the Christopher Sargent (1916), Marsh Corner (1917), Arlington (1910), Ashford (1913), Oakland Avenue (1910), Pleasant Valley (1914), Howe (1914), and Grosvenors (1917) Schools. Most of Allen's schools (Sargent, Marsh Corner, Oakland Avenue, Arlington, Howe, Pleasant Valley, and Ashford Street) are brick structures with stone trim. They are similar in design, incorporating elements of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. Grosvenor School is a single-story wood-frame structure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Department of Public Safety, Building Inspection Plans, Massachusetts Archives.
Annual School Report of Methuen (1921).

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.