

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

NR 3/5/80

MRA WJD

In Area no. 102

Form no. 105-C
420

1. Town Worcester
Address 327 Plantation Street
Name Bloomington Schoolhouse
Present use School

Present owner City of Worcester

Description: 1896, 1916

Source date placque & city document

Style vaguely Romanesque Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick

Other buildings (describe) none

Other features two towers flanking entry, sandstone trim, slate roof

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

UTM: 5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 17, p. 7
19/271430/4683320 Lot 2---39,574 sq. ft.

One acre or less _____ Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 180'

Approximate distance of building from street

20'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date February 1978

(over)



EAST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS

7. Original owner (if known) City of Worcester

Original use Grammar School

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> X </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> X </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> X </u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Built in 1896, the front section of the Bloomingdale Schoolhouse is a two and one-half storey brick structure with a slate-covered hip roof. The facade of the building (east) is symmetrical with a center-entry set between two semi-octagonal bays. Giving the appearance of small towers these bays have recessed wall panels with arched windows (second storey), modillioned cornices and octagonally-hipped roofs with copper finials. Set between the bays is an entry arch with a keystone inscribed "1896". In 1916, the original four rooms of the schoolhouse were expanded by an addition (west) of four more classrooms which had been part of the original 1896 plan. The addition was built of red brick and sandstone, two stories high with a flat roof. Although plans and elevations of the building were published in school committee reports, no architect was named. While it is likely that the building was designed by a local firm, no other school buildings are sufficiently similar to the Bloomingdale Schoolhouse to allow an attribution.

In 1928, a second schoolhouse was built at the rear of the lot. This second building, built of buff-colored tapestry brick, two stories high, and Colonial Revival in style, is unrelated to the architectural significance of the original Bloomingdale Schoolhouse (1896/1916).

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

City Documents: #51, year ending 11/30/1896, p. 76 (accounting of expenses) & opposite p. 292 (photo and plan of school house).