

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

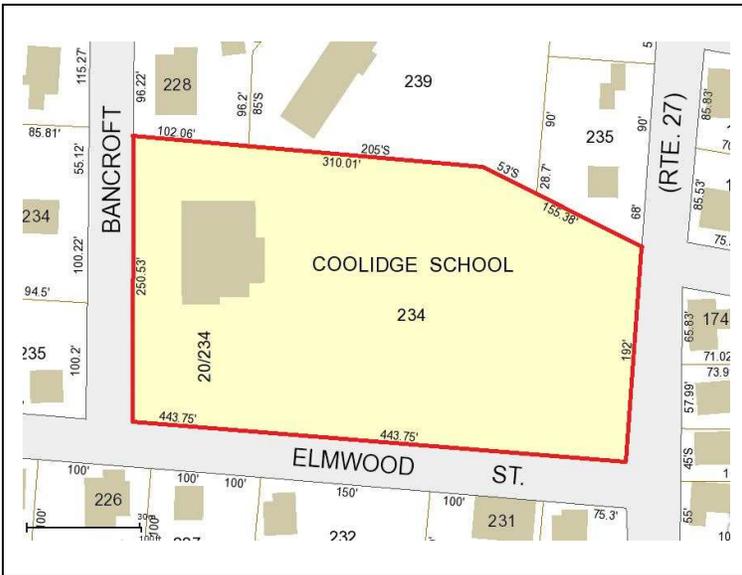
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

20/34	Maynard		MAY.28
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Photograph



Locus Map



Town/City: Maynard

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Bancroft and Elmwood Streets residential neighborhood

Address: 12 Bancroft Street

Historic Name: Bancroft Street School / Calvin Coolidge Elementary School

Uses: Present: Vacant, Food pantry (basement)

Original: Elementary school

Date of Construction: 1906

Source: School Building Committee Reports

Style/Form: Classical Revival

Architect/Builder: Charles J. Bateman & James Mullin (1906);
W. C. Croft, John Ashton (1909); George W. Gilfeather (1951)

Exterior Material: Brick

Foundation: Brick and granite

Wall/Trim: Brick, wood, cast stone and copper

Roof: Slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): **1909:** second story addition
1951: new heating system, boiler room wall, and creation of fire doors at east and south elevations

1984: handicap accessible ramp, window and door replacements, interior partitions, drop tile ceilings

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 2.48 acres

Setting: Densely developed suburban residential neighborhood surrounded by housing associated with the former American Woolen Company. The property is bound by Bancroft Street to the west, Parker Street to the east, Elmwood Street to the south, and single-family residential housing to the north.

Recorded by: Alisa Augenstein

Organization: Epsilon Associates, Inc.

Date (*month / year*): May 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MAYNARD

12 BANCROFT STREET

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MAY.28

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

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

Exterior

The Coolidge School is a Classical Revival style brick building with cast stone trim. The T-plan building is sited on a rectangular parcel that slopes down from the front (west) of the property to a municipal playground, basketball court and baseball field at the rear (east) of the property. The school is set back approximately 50 feet from Bancroft Street and is accessed by a concrete walkway that extends from the main entrance at the west elevation. A paved drive provides vehicular access to a side (south) parking lot and rear of the property.

Measuring nine bays wide and six bays deep, the school rises two-and-a-half stories with a raised basement from a brick foundation to a slate covered hip-roof pierced by two brick chimneys. A rock-faced granite water table extends around each elevation. Brick quoins frame the building, rising to overhanging eaves adorned with carved brackets. Regularly spaced bays of rectangular window openings with aluminum replacement one-over-one sash and metal transom panels are accentuated by cast stone sills and splayed keystone lintels at the first and second stories. The basement level window openings feature simple cast stone sills and lintels. Deteriorating steel fire escapes supported by concrete block footings are located at the south and east elevations.

A three-bay-wide central pavilion projects slightly from the façade of the west elevation. The pavilion is framed by brick quoins. A curvilinear parapet with copper coping extends above the roofline. The deeply recessed, arched main entrance at the center of the pavilion is accessed by a wood stair and handicap accessible ramp that extends along the southern half of the elevation. The wood paneled portico is framed by a cast stone archway and is capped by an oversized keystone console and denticulated wood pediment. The replacement glazed aluminum storefront entrance system provides access to the first floor vestibule.

The six-bay north and south (side) elevations feature minimal detailing. The granite watertable extends around from the west elevation and steps down as it reaches grade at the east (rear) elevation. At the north elevation, four of the basement windows contain plywood infill. Graffiti defaces the masonry between the basement and first floor. At the south elevation, all of the basement windows contain plywood infill. The fire escape door openings at the first and second floors are covered with plywood.

The rear (east) elevation reveals the full-height basement level. Wood-framed basement door openings with infilled transoms and cast stone lintels are located at the north and south ends of the elevation. A stair tower projects from the main block, measuring one bay wide by one bay deep. A wood-framed basement level egress door with cast stone

Continuation sheet 1

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lintel pierces the tower's south elevation, and a rounded arch window opening at the second story of the tower's north elevation features a glazed transom and cast stone lintel with keystone. The fire escape door openings at the first and second floors of the main block are covered with plywood.

Interior

The building features a full basement, first floor, second floor, and attic. The basement features a poured concrete floor and painted brick walls. The space originally contained an assembly hall at the rear of the building that was subdivided and converted into storage space prior to 1951. The original segmental arched door openings, paneled doors, and vertical board partition between the paired staircases remains.

The first and second floors feature a central hall plan with two classrooms flanking the hall on either side. A vestibule at the front of the building provides access to the central hall at the first floor. The hall is framed by two arrangements of decorative plaster arches supported by Doric columns and pilasters. Paired staircases are prominently positioned at the west side of the central hall. A pair of paneled wood and glazed doors with a multi-pane transom and sidelights separates the central hall from the rear stair hall. Finishes throughout the first floor hall include plaster ceilings obscured by suspended tile ceilings, carved wood baseboards, coat hooks, molded window and door casings, and hardwood floors. The former classrooms were subdivided with gypsum board in 1984 to accommodate office space, and feature suspended tile ceilings and simple, flat door and window surrounds. Hollow wood doors with infilled transoms provide access to the modified classrooms. The original carved baseboards, hardwood floors, and paneled closet doors within the classrooms remain.

The second floor, added to the building in 1909, is consistent with the layout and design of the first floor. The central hall is framed by a plastered arch opposite the paired front staircases. The central hall's full ceiling height has been retained, though the plaster is cracked in some areas and exhibits signs of water damage. The carved wood baseboards, coat hooks, molded door casings, and hardwood floors remain. Modern GWB storage spaces line the east side of the central hall where it accesses the rear stair hall. The partitions are incorporated into the original paneled wood and glazed door partition separating the main corridor from the rear stair hall. One of the multi-pane sidelights was replaced with a hollow wood door. The four classroom spaces have been retained and are accessed by the original paneled wood doors with infilled transoms. The classrooms feature hardwood and carpeted flooring, wood baseboards, built-in cabinets, paneled closet doors with molded surrounds, flat window surrounds, and full-height ceilings. Some slate chalkboards remain, though most have been covered with cork or dry-erase bulletin boards. The chalkboard frames have been retained throughout.

Unfinished attic space extends above the second floor. It is accessed by ladder through a wood hatch at the rear stair hall ceiling.

The paired, open staircases at the front of the building are among the former school's most significant interior architectural features. Originally the boys' and girls' stair, they provide access from the basement to the second floor, and rise to a wide landing between the first and second floors. A wood framed bulkhead with a molded baseboard

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was built at the landing to enclose the space above the recessed main entrance, while maintaining the full height of the portico. The stairs have wood risers and rubber treads, and are accentuated by squared and turned newels, turned balusters, and carved handrails.

The rear stair also provides access from the basement to the second floor. The stair features wood risers with rubber treads, simple skirtboards, turned newels with circular finials, turned balusters and a carved handrail. A secondary rail is mounted to the exterior wall. The stair rises to two small landings between each floor. In 1951, a large wood-framed radiator was added to the second floor stair landing.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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 following historical narrative is from the Bancroft School / Calvin Coolidge School Inventory Form (MAY.28), written by Joan S. Rockwell in 2000.

As a result of the American Woolen Company's expansion at the beginning of the twentieth century and subsequent increase in worker housing (see the New Village Area), the population of young grade school children in 1905 was burgeoning. The only schools at this time for school age children were the six classroom Main Street School (Woodrow Wilson School built in 1903-not extant) and the twelve room Nason Street School (built in 1892-not extant).

In 1905, the Town voted to purchase eighteen building lots from C. F. Monk that fronted Parker Street for a new four-room brick schoolhouse. The plan was to build the school with flexibility to enlarge it to eight rooms in the future. Charles J. Bateman, Sr., architect for the Main Street School, was selected to be the architect and James Mullin from Maynard, was to be the contractor.

Charles J. Bateman, Sr. (1851-1940) had an independent practice in Boston, Massachusetts from 1876 to 1932. He lived in Roxbury for many years and then later in Newtonville, Massachusetts. Mr. Bateman received early training and experience during the start of his career in the firm of Faulkner & Clarke where he spent seven years followed by a three-year stint with George Ropes.

Bateman designed many buildings in Boston between 1881 and 1904 that included schools, hospitals, churches, libraries and fire stations. Some of the schools that he designed included the Romanesque Revival Roxbury High School (1885, demolished in 1976), the Bigelow School (350 West Fourth Street, South Boston), and the Corcoran School in Clinton, Massachusetts.

Bateman's large commissions ranged from the Second Empire to the Federal Revival styles typical of his era. He often executed his designs in brick with stone trim. The Town felt that the Main Street School was one of the most handsome buildings in Maynard which probably influenced the School Committee to choose him to be the architect for the Coolidge School.

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The building was completed for \$20,482 and called the Bancroft Street School. It was clearly a Classical Revival building with a flat balustrated roof and arched entry with a decorative pediment. The style resembled the Main Street School, which was a two-story Classical Revival brick building. Both buildings had triple keystone lintels and balustrated flat roofs. However, the roof leaked from the beginning, which created tension between the contractor and the School Committee. Repair was put off until 1909 when the Building Committee recommended that the second floor and a new roof design be completed.

The addition was completed in 1910 for \$12,000 with W. C. Croft as the contractor.

In 1932, along with several other schools, the Bancroft Street School was renamed and became the Calvin Coolidge School.¹

In 1981 the Coolidge School was closed for use as an elementary school. The building reopened in 1984 after a major renovation project to accommodate the Maynard Public Schools administrative offices, with additional space rented to local artists. The renovation project included new aluminum windows, drop tile ceilings, interior partitions, floor refinishing, and new doors and frames.

In 1990, the Chapter I Computer Center rented space and in 1991 the administrative offices relocated to the Maynard High School. The Maynard Food Pantry occupied basement rooms which remain there to date. In the fall of 1995, the administrative offices returned to the Coolidge School and were joined by the School Age Child Care Program (SACC) and the Maynard Adult Learning Center.²

In 2014, the Maynard Public Schools administrative offices relocated to the Fowler School at 3 Tiger Drive.

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¹ Joan Rockwell, Calvin Coolidge Elementary School Inventory Form B (MAY.28), June 2000.

² Tappé Associates, Inc., *Coolidge School Facility Review*, October 20, 2008.

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First floor, view southwest of paired staircases



First floor, view east of arched central hall

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First floor, view east of rear stair hall



Second floor, view east of original wood paneled classroom door

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Second floor, view west of original coat hooks, carved baseboard, classroom door and molded surround



Second floor, view west of classroom

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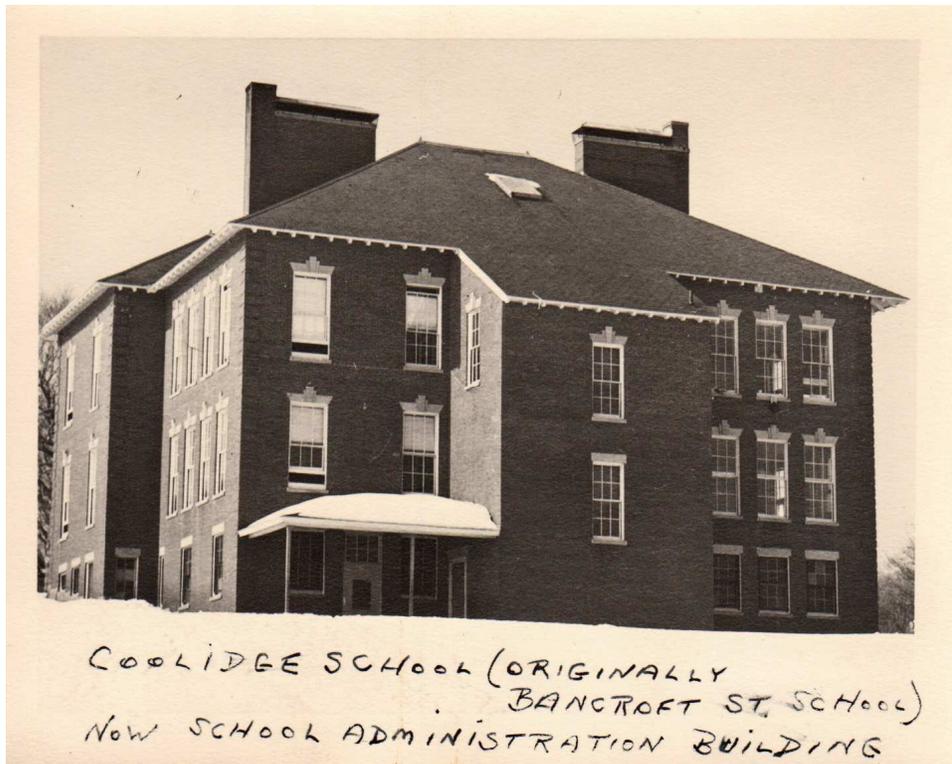
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View southeast of the Bancroft Street School in 1921 (Source: Maynard Historical Society Online Archives)



View northwest of the renamed Calvin Coolidge School in 1984, following interior renovations to accommodate the building's new use as the Maynard Public School's administrative offices (Source: Maynard Historical Society Online Archives)

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by Alisa Augenstein, Epsilon Associates, Inc.
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Calvin Coolidge Elementary School, originally named the Bancroft Street School, was constructed in 1906 in response to the population upsurge following the American Woolen Company’s redevelopment of the bankrupt Assabet Mill in 1899. Renamed the Assabet Manufacturing Company, the new ownership built worker housing in ca. 1903 to the east of the facility and within walking distance of the School in an area known today as the New Village (MAY.G). The new housing stock encouraged mill workers to relocate to Maynard, accounting for the burgeoning population at the turn of the 20th century and need for a new neighborhood school.

The School is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with the development of Maynard’s educational system, expanded in response to the growth of the local textile mill industry. The School also meets criterion C as a well-preserved example of Classical Revival style institutional architecture originally designed by former Boston city architect Charles J. Bateman, with the second story addition designed by John Ashton of the locally and regionally significant firm of Ashton & Huntress. The School retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and is significant at the local level.