Inventory No: BOS.4159
Historic Name: Winchell Elementary School
Common Name: Massachusetts General Hospital Sleeper Hall
Address: 24 Blossom St
City/Town: Boston
Village/Neighborhood: West End; Cambridge Street
Year Constructed: 1884
Architect(s): Mayers, Robert R.; Vinal, Arthur Hoard
Architectural Style(s): Romanesque Revival
Use(s): College or University; Public School
Significance: Architecture; Education
Area(s): 
Designation(s): 
Building Materials(s): Wall: Brick; Granite; Steel; Stone, Cut

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 4:09: PM
**Address**: 24 Blossom St., COR. Parkman St.

**Name**: Sleeper Hall, Winchell School

**AP No.**: 26N-12E

**SUB AREA**: Cambridge St.

**ATE**: 1884-1885

**Damrell, p. 60**

**ARCHITECT**: Arthur H. Vinal

**OWNER**: City of Boston

**PHOTOGRAPHS**: 3/1/87

**TYPE**: (residential) single double row 2-fam. 3-deck ten apt. **non-residential** School of Nursing

**NO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice)**: 3 plus on a raised basement

**ROOF**: flat cupola dormers

**MATERIALS (Frame)**: clapboards shingles stucco asphalt asbestos alum/vinyl

**Other**: brick stone trim concrete iron/alum.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**: Three stories on a raised basement, brick, Romanesque Revival in a cruciform plan. Facade has seven bays, four of which are in a shallow pavilion. Between second and third floors dentil brick cornice with string coursing. Stone cornice with simple molding below brick parapet. The Richardsonian entrance is arched and appears altered, with a deeply recessed double wood and glass door. Windows have flat granite lintels and sills all redone on first and second floors. Below windows on first-and second floor are decorative.

**EXTERIOR ALTERATION**: minor moderate drastic entrance altered

**CONDITION**: good fair poor

**LOT AREA**: 14,465 sq. feet

**NOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS**

**SIGNIFICANCE** (cont'd on reverse)

Sleeper Hall, owned by Massachusetts General Hospital and used as a nursing school was originally an elementary school for the children of the West End. It remained a school through the 1950s urban renewal when it was bought by MGH in 1963. Since then it has been the School of Nursing.
Moved; date if known __________________________

Themes (check as many as applicable)

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<tr>
<th>Aboriginal</th>
<th>Conservation</th>
<th>Recreation</th>
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<td>Agricultural</td>
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<td>Architectural</td>
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Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Preservation Consideration (accessibility, re-use possibilities, capacity for public use and enjoyment, protection, utilities, context)

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

Damrell, Charles Stanhope. A Half Century of Boston Buildings, Louis P. Hager, Boston, 1895

Gans, Herbert. The Urban Villagers, Free Press, New York, 1962, pp. 147, picture
brick panels with geometric designs using raised and recessed brick ends. An arched, recessed, entrance is on the side elevation (Parkman Street). There are three exterior metal enclosed staircases in corners formed by the cruciform shape.
Community: West End, Boston

CLG OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 3/14/05  Date Due:  Date Reviewed: 5/5/05
Type: Individual  Yes/No  District (attach map indicating boundaries)  Yes/No
Property Name Winchell Elementary School  MHC Inv Form #: BOS.4159
Prop. Address 24 Blossom Street, Boston.

Action  Honor  Yes/No  ITC  Yes/No  Grant  Yes/No  Other:
CLGC initiated  Y/N  _____

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Eligible  Yes
Eligible, also in a district  No
Eligible only in a district  No
Ineligible  No
More Information Needed  No

DISTRICTS

Eligible  Yes/No
Ineligible  Yes/No
More Information Needed  Yes/No

CRITERIA:

A-Yes  B-No  C-Yes  D-No
LEVEL:
Local-Yes  State-No  National-No

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by: Roysin Billett – Architectural Historian, Boston Landmarks Commission

(Refer to criteria cited above in statement of significance. If more information is needed, use space to describe what is needed to finish eligibility opinion)

The former Winchell Elementary School located in Boston's West End was one of roughly a dozen buildings to survive the destruction of the urban renewal program that leveled the vast majority of the neighborhood in the 1950s. It stands today as the only remaining school building that served the children of the West End. It is also stands as a fine example of Romanesque Revival architecture by one of Boston's leading designers, Arthur H. Vinal. For its associations with the old West End and with its designer, Arthur H. Vinal, the former Winchell Elementary School meets criteria A and C of the National Register with significance at the local level.

Constructed in 1884-1885 in the Romanesque Revival style after the designs of prominent local architect, Arthur H. Vinal, the Winchell school was originally two stories with a pitched roof. The addition of the third story followed in 1907. The footprint of the building roughly follows a cruciform plan which originally contained six classrooms on each floor. Constructed of brick with brownstone trim, its dominant decorative features include raised brick panels between the first and second story fenestration and recessed arched entries on the Blossom and Parkman street facades. "Winchell School," is etched into brownstone on the Blossom Street façade, serving as a reminder in a heavily redeveloped area of the former character of the neighborhood. The building is presently in fair condition with its character-defining features intact.
Arthur Vinal (1854-1912) served as Boston's City Architect from 1884-1888, during which time he designed the Winchell School. He is celebrated for his work in the Romanesque Revival style. In Boston, he designed the High Service Pump Station of the Chestnut Hill Waterworks, Ladder 15 Engine 33 Firehouse at 943-951 Boylston Street, the Robert Brigham Hospital, Boston City Hospital Nurses Dormitory at Harrison and East Springfield streets, as well as many houses on Bay State Road and Commonwealth Avenue. His designs extend across Massachusetts and into Maine.

The Winchell School remained an elementary school until 1960 when it was closed. Mass General Hospital purchased the building in 1963, renamed it Sleeper hall, and used it as a school for nursing. By 1985 the building served a variety of functions offering office, classroom, conference, and physical therapy space, as well as housing a library. It continues to function in these capacities today.