

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	BOS.4159
Historic Name:	Winchell Elementary School
Common Name:	Massachusetts General Hospital Sleeper Hall
Address:	24 Blossom St Parkman St
City/Town:	Boston
Village/Neighborhood:	West End; Cambridge Street
Local No:	
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

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ADDRESS 24 Blossom St. COR. Parkman St. ⁴¹⁵⁹

NAME Sleeper Hall Winchell School
present original

MAP No. 26N-12E SUB AREA Cambridge St.

DATE 1884-1885 Damrell, p. 60
source ^{USGS. BOSTON}

ARCHITECT Arthur H. Vinal " " ^{SECT D}
source

BUILDER R.R. Mayers " "
source

OWNER City of Boston Massachusetts General Hospital
original present

PHOTOGRAPHS 3 1/1 *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

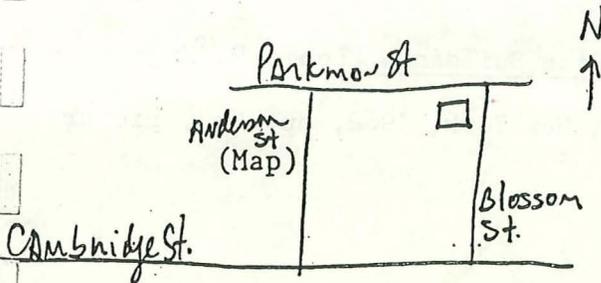
ROOF flat cupola dormers

MATERIALS (Frame) clapboards shingles stucco asphalt asbestos alum/vinyl
Other brick stone trim concrete iron/steel 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 pavillion. 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 ~~are~~ on first and second floor are decorative
EXTERIOR ALTERATION minor moderate drastic entrance altered (continued)

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)

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | _____ | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | _____ | Exploration/
settlement | _____ | Science/
invention | _____ |
| The Arts | _____ | Industry | _____ | Social/
humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce | _____ | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | _____ | | |
| Community/
development | _____ | | | | |

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

ADDRESS 24 Blossom Street

NAME Sleeper Hall

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.

FOR MHC USE ONLY	
Original (pink) form to CLG file	
One copy to the following:	
Eligibility file	
Inventory form	
Town file (with correspondence)	
MACRIS Coordinator	
National Register Director	

RECEIVED
MAY 10 2005

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	ITC	Yes/No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Grant	Yes/No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N
	CLGC initiated		Y/N			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Other:		

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES		DISTRICTS	
Eligible	Yes	Eligible	Yes/No
Eligible, also in a district	No	Ineligible	Yes/No
Eligible only in a district	No	More Information Needed	Yes/No
Ineligible	No		
More Information Needed	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.

Use reverse side if necessary

MHC STAFF OPINION

Date Received:	<i>May 10, 2005</i>	Date Reviewed:	<i>May 18, 2005</i>
Opinion:	Concur ✓	Disagree	More Information Needed

Use Reverse for Comments