## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic nameWeymouth Civic District	
other names/site numberN/A	
2. Location	
street & number 75 Middle Street	☐ not for publication
city or town Weymouth	_N/♠ vicinity
state <u>Massachusetts</u> code <u>MA</u> county <u>Norfolk</u> code <u>O2</u>	zip code <u>02189</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that the properties of certifying of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my of meets of does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered signationally of statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Jud Lich B. McDonoug Date Executive Director, Nassachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation State of Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation comments.)	National Register of opinion, the property nificant  Officer
Signature of Certifying Unicial Fine Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is:  Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.	
☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.	
Odetermined not eligible for the National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	
U other, (explain:)	

Weymouth Civic Distr	rict	Norfolk County, Massachusetts County and State				
5. Classification		<u> </u>		****		
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)				
☐ private	<ul><li>□ building(s)</li><li>☑ district</li><li>□ site</li></ul>	Contributing	Noncontributing			
□ public-local     □ public-State		2	0	buildings		
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure			sites		
	□ object	3	0	structure:		
		2	0	objects		
		7	0	Total		
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  N/A  6. Function or Use		in the National		***		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from				
Government/Town Hall		Government/To	own Hall			
Education/School		Recreation ar	nd Culture/Monumer	t; Theater		
Recreation and Cultu	re/Monument; Theater					
				,		
7. Description						

Materials

other\_

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation <u>Brick</u>; Concrete

walls Brick; Stucco

roof Slate; Asphalt

Narrative Description

**Architectural Classification** 

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival/

Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance						
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)				
		Architecture				
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.		Community Planning and Development				
		Government				
		Education				
□в	Property is associated with the lives of persons					
-	significant in our past.					
IXI C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics					
_ •	of a type, period, or method of construction or					
	represents the work of a master, or possesses					
	high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack	Period of Significance				
	individual distinction.	1925–1940				
□ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.					
Crite	ria Considerations	Significant Dates				
	"x" in all the boxes that apply.)	oignineant bates				
Prope	erty is:	N/A				
riope	orty 10.					
	owned by a religious institution or used for					
	religious purposes.	Significant Person				
□в	removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)				
		N/A				
□с	a birthplace or grave.					
□ <b>D</b> a cemetery.		Cultural Affiliation				
□E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.					
□F	a commemorative property.					
		Architect/Builder				
⊔G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	McLaughlin and Burr;				
	within the past 50 years.					
	-	Prescott, Howard B.				
Narra (Expla	ative Statement of Significance in the significance of the property on one or more continuation sneets.)	·				
9. M	aior Bibliographical References					
Bibik (Cite ti	ography ne books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	e or more continuation sheets.)				
Previ	ious documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:				
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office				
	CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register	<ul><li>☐ Other State agency</li><li>☐ Federal agency</li></ul>				
	previously determined eligible by the National	☐ Local government				
	Register	☐ University				
	designated a National Historic Landmark	Other				
. 니	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Name of repository:				
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Massachusetts Historical Commission				

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Weymouth Civic District, Weymouth, Massachusetts

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#### DESCRIPTION

The Weymouth Civic District, Weymouth, Massachusetts, is a complex of two buildings and two monuments situated near the center of town. The district includes roughly four acres, part of a larger town-owned parcel that contains 11.3 acres. The district is bounded on the north by Academy Avenue, on the east by Middle Street, on the south by another town-owned lot and on the west by the remainder of the 11.3 acre town lot that contains a modern high school building constructed to replace an earlier high school that was destroyed by fire. Beyond the district to the west, north and east are residential areas containing houses from various periods, while a mixed residential/commercial areas lies to the south. Standing within the district are the Weymouth Town Hall (1928), Weymouth Industrial School (1926), the Memorial Cross (1930) and the Memorial Wall/Open Air Theater (1929). Access to the complex is provided by three driveways from Middle Street and one from Academy Avenue. The driveways lead to two parking areas, one west of the Town Hall and another west of the Memorial Cross. Early descriptions of the complex indicate that the driveways and parking areas were part of the historic site.

The oldest building on the site is the Weymouth Industrial School, which is located at the southwest corner of the lot, west of the Memorial Cross. The Industrial School is a 1 1/2-story Tudor Revival-style structure. It is comprised of a rectangular central section with short wings extending to the north from its east and west ends. The school rests on a raised concrete foundation (fully exposed at the south and east elevations) with a stucco finish. Window openings are symmetrically placed at the north and south elevations and asymmetrically at the side elevations. Basement windows are of varying sizes, while most at the first floor are uniform. Original sash have been replaced in most window openings, except for about half of the basement windows. Elevations at the first floor are also finished with stucco, with exterior trim dominated by a regular pattern of half timbering. Corners of the building are defined by wide cornerboards that rise to stylized capitals. A wood course separates the basement level from the first floor. Metal security grilles cover the basement windows at the south elevation. The main block of the building is enclosed by a hip roof, while the wings have gable ends north. A round cupola capped by a copper dome rises from the center of the main block.

The principal elevation of the Industrial School faces north. The focal point of the facade is a central entry. The entry consists of a set of modern double doors flanked by paired pilasters that support a wide entablature with dentils. Above the doorway is a large pedimented gable, within which is set a recessed date placque. Two windows flank the entry. At the intersection of the wings and main block are two semi-circular bays, containing three windows each, that are finished to match the remainder of the building. Exposed end walls of the wings (north walls) are identical, with three windows at the first floor and an oculus within the pedimented gable. The oculi contain original wheel windows.

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The rear (south) elevation of the school is sixteen bays wide. Access to the building at this elevation is gained by means of a secondary entry at the basement that contains a modern door (sixth bay from west end). A pedimented gable dormer projects from the roof at the center of this elevation.

The west elevation is divided into eight bays, each of which contains a window, at the first floor and six unequal bays at the basement. The basement consists of four single windows, one paired window and a secondary entry containing a modern door (centered on the elevation).

The east elevation has four unequally spaced windows and a secondary entry containing a modern door at the basement. The entry appears to have been modified over the years, and the two northernmost bays previously contained windows (sills remain visible). At the first floor, the five easternmost bays each contain one window.

Weymouth Town Hall is a 2 1/2-story brick structure, designed in the Colonial Revival style as a copy of the Old State House in Boston. Dimensions of the Old State House were increased one-fifth for the Weymouth building. The Weymouth Town Hall rests on a raised brick basement pierced by evenly spaced windows, some of which contain 6/6 sash while others contain louvered vents. Above the basement, windows, except as noted, are topped by brick voussoir and contain 12/12 replacement sash. At each elevation, a brick beltcourse runs between the first and second stories. The north and south elevations have an additional brick beltcourse between the second and third floors. The building is enclosed by a slate-covered gable roof with stepped parapets at the end walls (north and south). A wood cornice with modillions defines the roof line at the east and west elevations. Gabled dormers containing 6/6 sash project from the east and west elevations of the roof. A three-tiered wood cupola rises from the center of the roof and is decorated with Colonial Revival detailing, including quoining, oculi, turned balustrades, tracery windows and modillions.

The facade (east elevation) is arranged symmetrically, with ten windows flanking the central main entry at the first floor and eleven evenly spaced windows at the second floor. The main entry is recessed within a rectangular opening framed by a pedimented gable supported by scroll brackets which in turn rest on fluted columns set on granite bases. The entry reveals are decorated with rusticated wood panels. The entry contains a set of wood double doors, each leaf of which contains four panels. The doors are set beneath a fanlight. A granite stoop leads to the entry.

The rear (west) elevation is nearly identical to the facade, except that it has nine bays rather than eleven, and the entry has been modified. The entry is set within a rectangular opening framed by a pedimented gable supported by scroll brackets, which in turn rest on fluted columns set on granite bases.

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The entry contains a set of wood double doors, each leaf of which contains eight glass panes and two wood panels. The doors are topped by a blind fanlight. At the second floor, two of the bays (second from north and south ends) contain doorways that open onto iron balconies. The balconies are supported on scroll brackets and the doors are glazed (this appears to be an original condition).

The south elevation is three bays wide with a fully exposed basement. At the basement, two windows flank a brick stoop with slate treads. Beneath the stoop is a secondary entry containing a modern door for handicap access. At the first floor, a central entry is flanked by two windows. The entry contains a set of wood double doors, each leaf of which has four panels. Above the doors is a four-pane transom. At the second floor, a central doorway and balcony are flanked by two windows. The doorway is topped by a segmentally arched pediment above an entablature with dentils. The entablature rests on fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals. The doorway contains glazed double doors surrounded by multipane sidelights and transom. The balcony is supported on scroll brackets and has a simple balustrade, all constructed of wood. At the third floor, a central window is flanked by two blind oculi with brick surrounds interspersed with terracotta bosses. At the peak of the gable, a clock framed by an acanthus motif is set into the wall.

The north elevation is three bays wide, with a central entry flanked by two windows at the first floor, three windows at the second floor, a central window flanked by two blind oculi at the third floor and a placque containing the town seal surrounded by an acanthus motif set beneath the gable. At the first floor, the entry is recessed within a rectangular opening framed by surrounds identical to those at the west elevation. Reveals of the entry are decorated with wood panelling. The entry contains one wide wood door with twelve panels set beneath an arcaded transom. A granite stoop leads to the entry.

Just south of the Town Hall is the Memorial Wall/Open Air Theater. The Open Air Theater is a stretch of grassed lawn (roughly 220 by 180 feet) that extends from a parking area in front of the high school toward Middle Street. At the east end of the theater, the ground rises sharply to form a semi-circular grass stage. The Memorial Wall forms the rear (east) wall of the stage. The principal elevation of the wall faces east. It is constructed of brick with concrete coping and is arranged symmetrically in three sections connected by two iron gates. The wall is roughly 150 feet in length. Along the wall are brass and bronze placques listing the names of Weymouth residents who served in the various wars. The central section has a main block that is flanked by brick piers rising to concrete caps on which rest concrete eagles. On either side of the main block, the wall steps down about two feet and extends to meet another brick pier with concrete ball cap. Iron gates then connect the two outermost sections of the wall, which are then terminated with brick piers.

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South of the Memorial Wall, set up on a knoll, is the Memorial Cross. The design of the granite monument is simple and dignified: an elongated Latin cross, tapering to a slightly flared base, mounted on a two-stage plinth of monumental proportions. A lower step surrounding the plinth is granite ashlar. The base, shaft, and arms of the cross are hexagonal in shape.

### Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. Three sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). In general, however, the district lacks favorable locational criteria that would indicate a moderate or high potential for Native American resources. There is also a low potential for historic archaeological survivals within the district. Late 19th and 20th century historic period development characterized by two large structures with basements, monuments and landscaping including an open air theater, have disturbed most of the district. This factor combined with the overall lack of pre-late 19th/early 20th century land use indicates a low potential for historic archaeological survivals.

(end)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Weymouth Civic District, Weymouth, Massachusetts, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association with the development of Weymouth's principal governmental and educational complex. The district is also significant as a well-preserved complex of municipal structures, including the Weymouth Town Hall (1928), Weymouth Industrial School (1926), the Memorial Cross (1930) and the Memorial Wall/Open Air Theater (1929). The district is of local significance and meets Criteria A and C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

At Weymouth's annual town meeting of 1927, the sum of \$175,000 was appropriated and a committee appointed to select a site and plan for the construction of new town offices for Weymouth and a memorial for veterans of the various wars. For six months, the Committee, headed by Colonel Gilbert Bauer, considered fifteen potential sites and ultimately found that the grounds adjoining the Weymouth High School would be most appropriate for the town's needs. The decision was based on the desire to have a central location where the town's principal civic activities could be undertaken. There were already two buildings located on the site, the High School and Industrial School, and construction of a new town hall and memorial monuments would clearly create an impressive complex. In their final report, the Committee stated that Weymouth wanted "something like the civic group in Springfield which had brought prosperity to that city." Another reason leading the Committee to select the High School site was that the site offered a unique

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opportunity to construct an open-air theater as a joint project with the School Department. Plans were devised for a theater that would be used for high school performances or graduation exercises and for public functions.

When the High School site was selected in 1927, it contained the Weymouth High School and the Weymouth Industrial School. The high school was a large, brick Romanesque Revival—style structure built in 1898 (enlarged in 1923 and 1928) when the town's two earlier high schools were consolidated to create a centralized facility. The school was destroyed by fire in the 1970s and rebuilt in a modern design out of brick, which minimizes the visual impact to the older buildings on the site.

The Weymouth Industrial School was constructed in 1926 to house the vocational training program for high school students. In the early 1920s, educators throughout the country were growing increasingly concerned over the lack of "practical" training being offered to students. With industry having moved from the home into the factories and increasing numbers of people moving away from trades, children were receiving less vocational training at home then previous generations had. By 1925, school administrators in Weymouth had recognized the need for vocational training and had added courses in agriculture, carpentry, commercial printing and home-making to the high school curriculum. The School Committee reported in 1925 that "in order to satisfy the increasing demand for this type of education, and distribute the boys graduated from the school to a larger number of industries, provisions should be made during the coming year to add sheet metal work, electric wiring and automotive repairing... To do this, it will be necessary to build a shop outside of our main building." Plans for the Industrial School were prepared in consultation with Boston architect Howard B. S. Prescott. Prescott for many years had been staff architect for the Boston Wharf Company and had designed the 1923 addition to the Weymouth High School. The Industrial School is of a simple Tudor Revival design and much of it was built by the boys in the high school carpentry program. The building has been altered very little over time and retains all major elements of its original Tudor Revival design, including its stucco exterior, half timbering, pedimented gables and stylized entry pavilion. The setting has also remained very much intact, with a circular driveway leading to the front of the school and a stone wall bordering the south lot line. A driveway has been added between the stone wall and the rear of the school to provide access to garages and storage buildings west of the school.

For some time prior to 1927, the need for modern town offices in a centralized location had been an issue for townspeople. The previous town hall, which had been located in East Weymouth, was destroyed by fire in 1914. After that, town offices were rented and town meetings held in the Fogg Opera House in South Weymouth or the Odd Fellows Opera House in East Weymouth. Land on which the town hall stands was part of a parcel that, prior to 1927, bordered the

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high school lot on the north and contained a small house. In 1927, the Town purchased the lot from Mrs. S. Etta Knowles for \$5,040. Plans for the town office building were provided by Boston architects McLaughlin & Burr. This firm was well known for their design of institutional buildings in towns throughout the Boston area. The model for their design was Boston's Old State House, the dimensions of which were enlarged by one-fifth. Construction of the Town Hall began in 1928 and the building was dedicated on January 22, 1929. The town departments moved into the building on December 24, 1928. On both the interior and exterior, the Colonial Revival-style Town Hall remains well preserved, the only major exterior change being replacement of original windows. As originally designed, the basement, first and second floors were finished for office space while the third floor was left unfinished for future growth. The third floor has been finished off and now also contains town offices. Recent work to the building resulted in restoration of a large hearing room at the south end of the building (a copy of the Council Chamber at the Old State House) and the central stair hall.

When the civic center was planned, it was intended that there be a memorial wall at the stage end (east) of the open-air theater and a memorial bell tower. It appears that the tower may have proven to be too costly, as that plan was superceded by one to build a Memorial Cross. The Committee on New Town Offices and War Memorial reported in 1929 that "one of the chief reasons which led us to recommend placing the Town Hall on its present site was the opportunity offered by the knoll Easterly of the South Wing of the High School...in a place where it would balance the Town Hall and where the coming generations of school children would see it and learn its significance." The Memorial Cross that was ultimately erected on the knoll to honor the men of Weymouth who had died in the various wars was modeled after a similar cross at Arlington National Cemetery. The Memorial Cross was completed and dedicated in 1929.

The School Department and Committee on New Town Offices and War Memorial worked together on the planning and construction of the Memorial Wall/Open Air Theater as it was intended for use by the high school and for town functions. Construction began in 1928 and the memorial tablets for the Civil War, King Philip's War, the Philippine Insurrection and World War I were dedicated on November 10, 1928; those for the Revolutionary War, French and Indian War and the War of 1812 were dedicated on April 19, 1930. Since construction of the wall, memorial tablets have also been added for the War with Spain, Second Nicaraguan Campaign, World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. A placque on the west side of the wall designates the Open Air Theater as the Lieutenant Ralph Talbot Theater.

(end)

Name of Property	Co	ounty and	State	•
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property4 acres	_			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 1 9 3 3 9 9 2 0 4 6 7 6 0 6 0  Zone Easting Northing	3	3 1 19 Zone	3 3 19 8 18 10 Easting	Northing
2 1 <sub>1</sub> 9 3 4 <sub>1</sub> 0 0 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 0 4 <sub>1</sub> 6 7 <sub>1</sub> 5 8 6 d	4	1 19	3 3 19 8 16 10	416 715 81410
5: 1 9 3 3 9 9 1 0 4 6 7 5 8 6 0  Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	6	□ See 5:1 9	continuation sheet 3 3 9 8 6 0	4676040
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Christine S. Beard, Consultant w	ith Betsy Frie	edberg	; National Reg	i <u>ster Dire</u> ctor
organization <u>Massachusetts Historical Commis</u>	sion	date _J:	anuary, 1992	
street & number 80 Boylston Street	tel	ephone .	(617) 727-84	70
city or townBoston	state1	AP	zip code _02	116
Additional Documentation				
Submit the following items with the completed form:				
Continuation Sheets				•
Maps				
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating	g the property's lo	cation.		
A Sketch map for historic districts and propertie	es having large acr	eage or	numerous resource	es.
Photographs			-	
Representative black and white photographs of	of the property.			
Additional items	· ·			
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)				
Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)				
(complete his nem at the request of SHFO of FFO.)				
name		<u></u>		
street & number	te	lephone	***************************************	
city or town	state		zip code	
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being col properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, a	es, and to amend exist	ing listings	. Response to this requ	

Weymouth Civic District

Norfolk County, Massachusetts

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior.
National Park Service

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts (1888) Sanborn Incurance Atlas (1927) Weymouth Town Directories (Various Years) The Weymouth Gazette (October, 1927)

### 10. Verbal Boundary Description

The district occupies a 4 acre portion of a larger 11.3 acre town owned lot. The boundaries have been drawn to include the seven contributing resources on the 11.3 acre town-owned lot. See attached assessors map for exact boundaries.

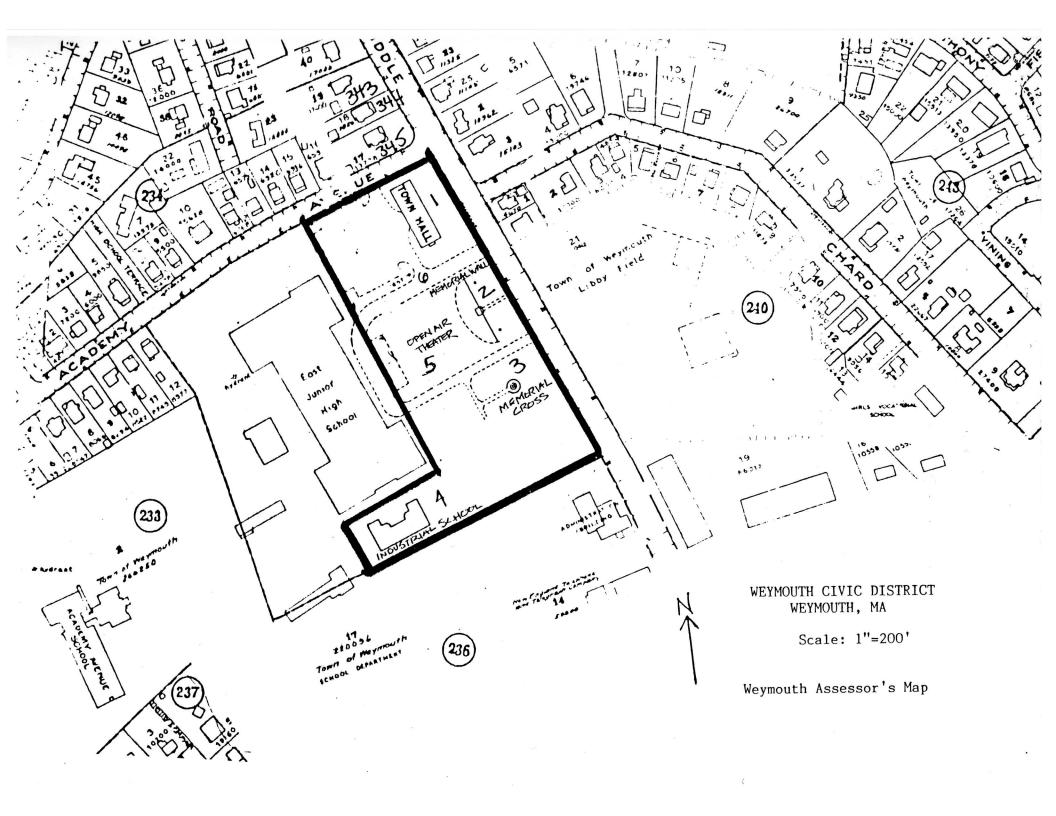
### Boundary Justification

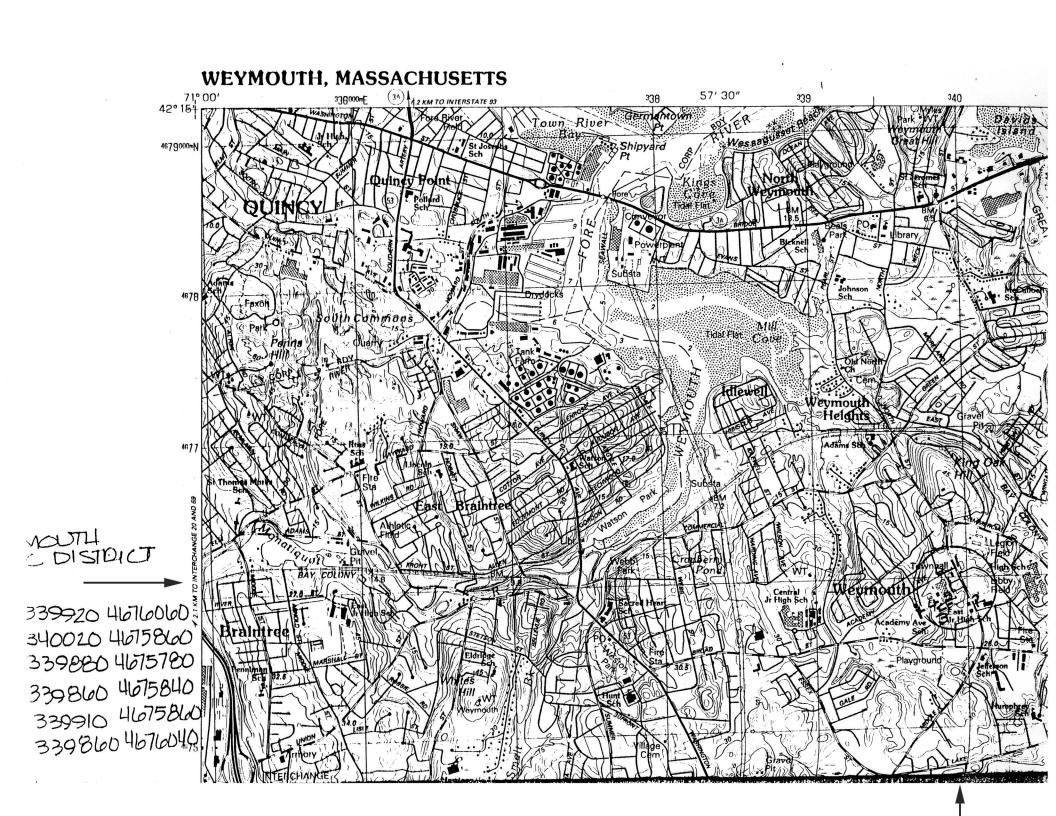
The Weymouth Civic District includes only that portion of the town-owned lot which contains resources contributing to this district of early twentieth century municipal structures, which include the Town Hall, Industrial School, Memorial Wall/Open Air Theater, and Memorial Cross. Excluded from the boundaries are a modern school building and three outbuildings. North and south of the lot are residential areas dominated by nineteenth and early twentieth century houses. East and west of the lot are mid-twentieth century neighborhoods.

### WEYMOUTH CIVIC DISTRICT DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Address	<u>Map #</u>	MITO #	Historic Name	Date	Style	Type*	Status
75 Middle Street	1	321	Weymouth Town Hall	1928	Colonial Revival	В	С
75 Middle Street	2	none	Memorial Wall/Open Air Theater	1929	none	0	C
75 Middle Street	3	320	Memorial Cross	1930	none	0	С
75 Middle Street	4	322	Weymouth Industrial School	1926	Tudor Revival	В	С
75 Middle Street	5	none	Open Air Theater	1929	none	S	С
75 Middle Street	6	none	Driveways and Parking	1929	none	S	С
75 Middle Street	7	none	Stone Wall /	1926	none	S	С

\*B=Building O=Object S=Structure







1. Weymouth Town Hall. View looking northwest at facade (east) and south elevation. (Photograph: Christine Beard, Spring 1990)



2. Weymouth Industrial School. View looking southeast showing facade (north). (Photograph: Christine Beard, Spring 1990)







5. Weymouth Town Hall, Open-Air Theater, Memorial Wall (L-R). View looking northeast at south elevation of Town Hall and west face of wall. (Photograph: Christine Beard, Spring 1990)