

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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## 1. Name of Property

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historic name: Hope Street School

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Location

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street & number: 40 Hope Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Woonsocket

vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Providence code: 007 zip code: 02895

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## 3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Property name Hope Street School, Providence County, Woonsocket, RI

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

Fredrick Williams  
Signature of commenting or other official

10 March 2007  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register      \_\_\_\_\_  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register      \_\_\_\_\_  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register      \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register      \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic: EDUCATION Sub: school

Current: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

Property name Hope Street School, Providence County, Woonsocket, RI

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation	<u>STONE, BRICK</u>	roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
walls	<u>BRICK</u>	other	_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1899

Significant Dates: 1899

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder:	<u>A</u>	<u>Kent, Willard</u>
	<u>B</u>	<u>Norton &amp; Kennedy</u>

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>291250</u>	<u>4652560</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.  
 Plat 9, lots 114 and 117.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.  
 The nominated property includes the two parcels historically associated with the school.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Joshua Safdie with Jeffrey Emidy

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 08/99

Street & Number: 22 Halsey Street #4 Telephone: 401-274-6711

City or Town: Providence State: RI ZIP: 02906

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Description

The Hope Street School (1899) is a large, rectangular 2½-story building, clad in brick veneer with brick, sandstone, and wood decorative elements. The walls are pierced on all four sides by windows and on the north and south sides by double-door entrances. The window and door surrounds on all four elevations have flat- and segmental-arched brick lintels and rusticated sandstone sills, while the wall planes themselves are articulated by a minimalist, raised brick beltcourse and simple brick corbelling. The building is capped by a pyramidal hipped roof with eaves and a central chimney surrounded by four smaller vents that appear to have formed four corner posts for a balustrade which is no longer extant. The school itself is set at the top of a ten-foot embankment, with its northern wall standing approximately thirty feet from the edge of the lot along Hope Street. Four sets of concrete stairs lead up the embankment from Hope Street; a four-foot fieldstone retaining wall divides the school's lot from the vacant adjacent lot at the corner of Hope and Center Streets; a large concrete pad is set on the vacant corner lot; and a fine set of six foot wide, pink granite steps is cut into a six-foot high retaining wall along Center Street. The grounds are neglected, with young trees, weeds and undergrowth scattered throughout the site.

The building is set on a fieldstone basement, clad in brick, with basement windows on all four elevations. The basement is capped by a rounded sandstone water table. The north and south elevations and the east and west elevations are mirror images, with fenestration which divides each elevation in half. The fenestration articulates the differing functions in each part of the interior.

On the west elevation, one of the two entrances is set in the north half; it has an oversized, flat-roofed, wooden portico with Doric columns on brick piers and is approached by five sandstone steps. The door was enclosed at some point by a small, flat-roofed, wooden exterior vestibule minimally decorated with wooden dentils. There is a single window on each side of the door, a 3-part configuration which is reinforced on the second story by a large window and fanlight located directly above the entrance portico and flanked by identical windows. The southern half of the elevation is blank with the exception of a simple, rectangular, raised brick panel centered on the second floor of this half of the elevation.

The east elevation is nearly identical to the west one. The entrance

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once had a similar portico, which is now removed. It has a round-arched, brick lintel over the entrance that has been filled in and supported with a steel lintel.

Both north and south elevations are divided into two markedly different halves. On the left side of each are five large windows on the first and second stories, which light the classrooms. On the right, five tall narrow windows are arranged diagonally, following the rise of the stairs. The expressive exterior articulation of the building's interior arrangement is the most engaging aspect of its design, and its most important character-defining feature.

In plan, the building is divided into four interlocking rectangles around the central chimney stack. On each floor, the two smaller rectangular spaces in the northwest and southeast corners provide vertical and horizontal circulation; the stairs are in the very northwest and southeast corners of each hallway, and a small, square room occupies the southwest and northeast corners of each. Two large classrooms, each with access to both hallways, are in the building's northeast and southwest corners.

The interior of the building retains a high degree of architectural integrity and an unusual number of original details, including double-hung sash, door and window surrounds, wainscoting in all rooms and hallways, wood paneling between the five windows on the east and west elevations, plaster work, hardwood floors, built-in cabinets and casework, and even some slate chalkboards.

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Photographs

Photographer: Clark Schoettle

Date: October, 1999

Negatives filed: Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage  
Commission, 150 Benefit street, Providence, RI

The above information applies to all photographs.

View: Exterior, north elevation.

Photo #1

View: Exterior, north elevation entrance.

Photo #2

View: Exterior, west elevation.

Photo #3

View: Interior, north staircase, first floor.

Photo #4

View: Interior, south staircase, first floor.

Photo #5

View: Interior, east classroom, first floor.

Photo #6

View: Interior, east classroom, second floor.

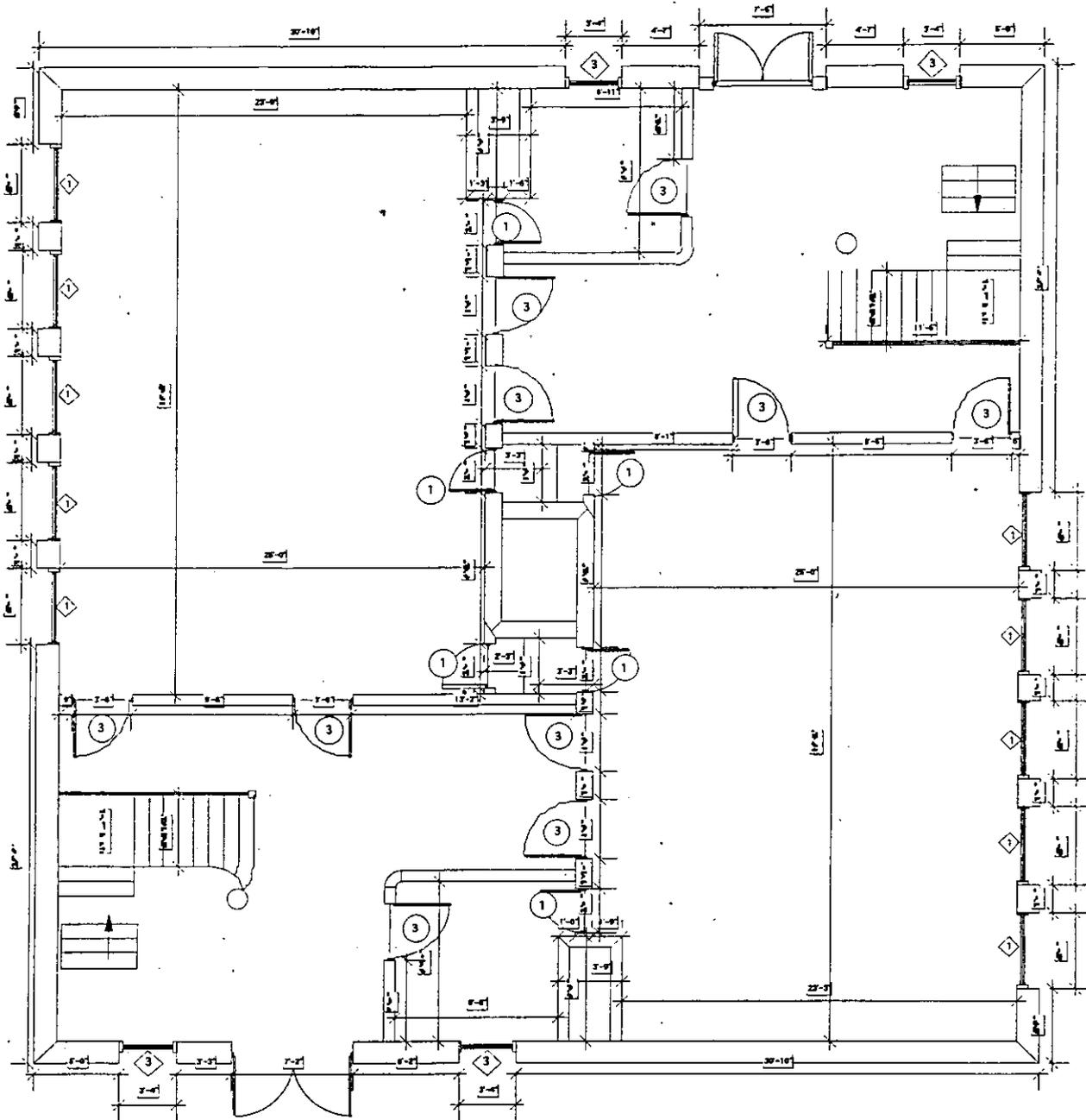
Photo #7

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First Floor

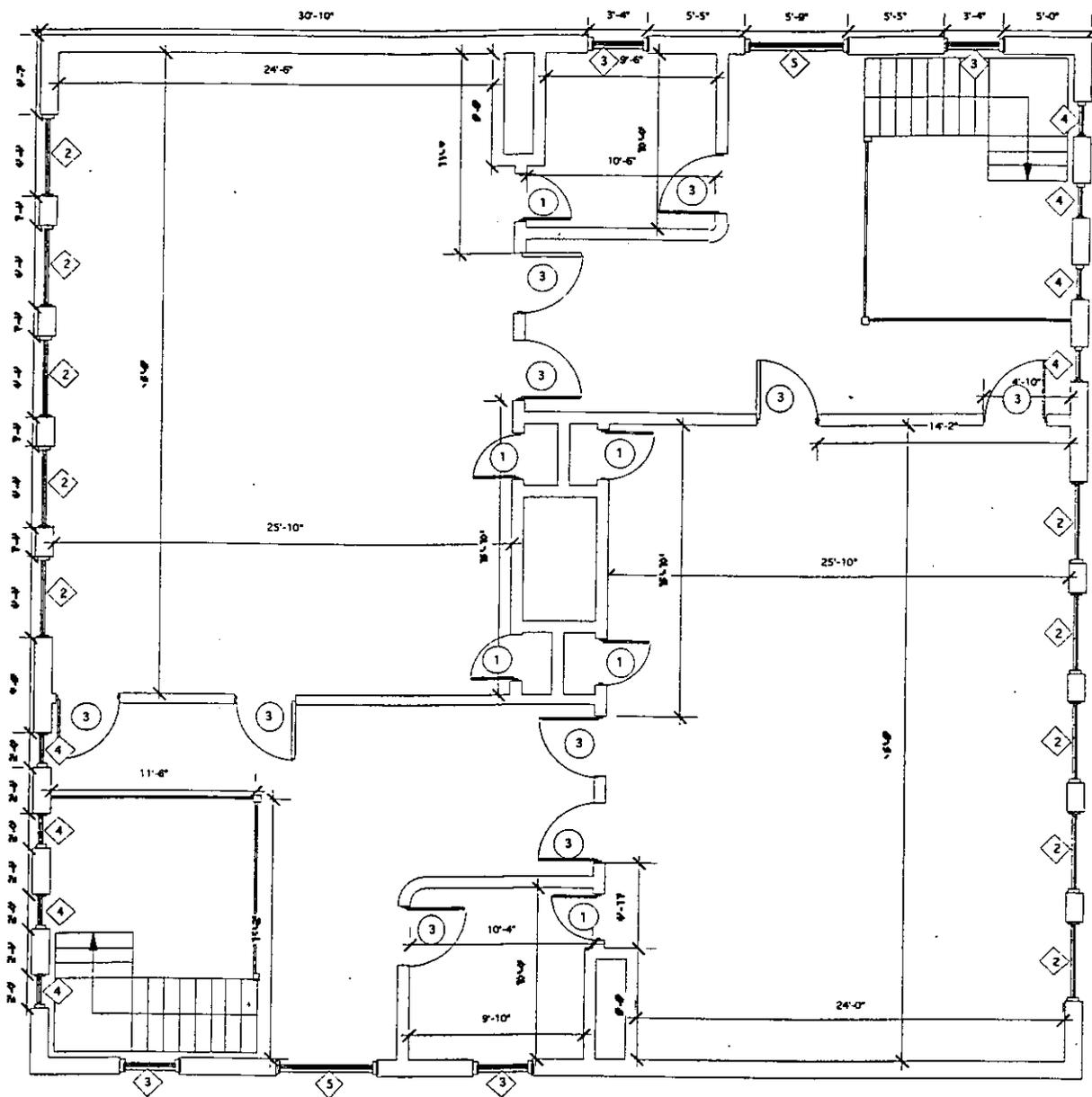
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7  
Second Floor

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Significance

The Hope Street School (1899) is significant as a well-preserved example of a turn-of-the-century, four-room, brick elementary school building which has retained a high degree of integrity. It was designed by Willard Kent, a prominent Rhode Island architect and civil engineer. Its construction was a consequence of the burgeoning population in the Constitution Hill section of Woonsocket during the second half of the nineteenth century; the Hope Street School was built to augment the existing facilities at the adjacent Center Street School at the corner of Hope and Center Streets. The four-room school house first opened its doors on September 5, 1899, and operated continuously until the city closed it permanently in 1978.

Historical Background and Significance

The site of substantial manufacturing concerns developed throughout the nineteenth century, Woonsocket was incorporated in 1888. Prior to the close of the Civil War, Woonsocket comprised several small mill villages. During the 1870s, Woonsocket's population increased dramatically, as immigrant mill workers, primarily Irish and French-Canadians moved to the city. Globe Village, located on Constitution Hill, was one of the small villages that predated the post-war industrialization. Many of the houses in Globe Village were the property of the Ballou family, owners of the former Globe Mills near South Main Street, to which the village owed its name. In 1871, Ariel Ballou gave a large parcel of land to the village, upon which Hope Street and three surrounding streets, Sayles, Center, and Jeffers, were laid out. These four streets make up the interior of the northern half of the Constitution Hill neighborhood; the Hope Street School is just north of its center.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the population increase caused overcrowding in Woonsocket schools, forcing the school committee to rent out private buildings for classroom space. The Constitution Hill neighborhood's first effort to alleviate this problem came in 1878, when a school was built at the corner of Hope and Center Streets on property the Ballou family sold to the Woonsocket School District Number 8. This building, known at first as the Hope Street School but later as the Center Street School (demolished in 1955), was a small, four-room school, but it became too small within twenty years of its construction.

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In 1899, an adjacent parcel on Hope Street was purchased to accommodate the construction of another building, the present day Hope Street School. The town asked Willard C. Kent, a local architect and civil engineer, to execute the design. Kent, who maintained offices in both Woonsocket and Narragansett, played a prominent role in the civic and architectural development of both communities. In Woonsocket, Kent served as the first water department head from 1885 to 1888 and was in charge of the construction of the city's street railway. He also served as the superintendent of the Wakefield water works until 1911 and was instrumental in the planning and construction of water systems in South Kingstown and Narragansett. In Narragansett, Kent also designed several private residences and the Narragansett Grammar School.

Constructed by local contractors Norton & Kennedy, the Hope Street School was opened in September, 1899, bringing to twenty the number of school buildings in the rapidly-growing city of Woonsocket. These buildings housed seventy-two classrooms and seven recitation rooms. Of the twenty buildings, eleven had been built or enlarged in the previous ten years to accommodate the growing population of the city. The construction of the Hope Street School allowed the school committee to stop using private buildings for classroom space, a prime reason for the new construction.

The Center Street School and the Hope Street School coexisted into the twentieth century. In the first decade of the century an additional "Portable School" was placed between the two to add more classroom space. However, this structure was removed some time before 1950, and the original Center Street School was razed in 1955, leaving the Constitution Hill neighborhood again with only four classrooms. With the decline of the textile manufacturing industries in Woonsocket and throughout the northeastern United States after the close of World War II, the Constitution Hill neighborhood fell into a period of decline. Throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, the neighborhood suffered from high crime rates and the deterioration of some of its original tenement buildings.

Construction of new schools and the enlargement of other existing buildings during the 1960s and 1970s, in addition to rising maintenance expenses and decreasing enrollment at the Hope Street School, prompted the city to close the school permanently on June 23, 1978. After the closing of the school, the property was held by the school department which hoped to re-open it as a school. Unable to find an appropriate use for the building, the city sold the Hope Street School and the parcel on which the

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Center Street School formerly stood to a private developer.

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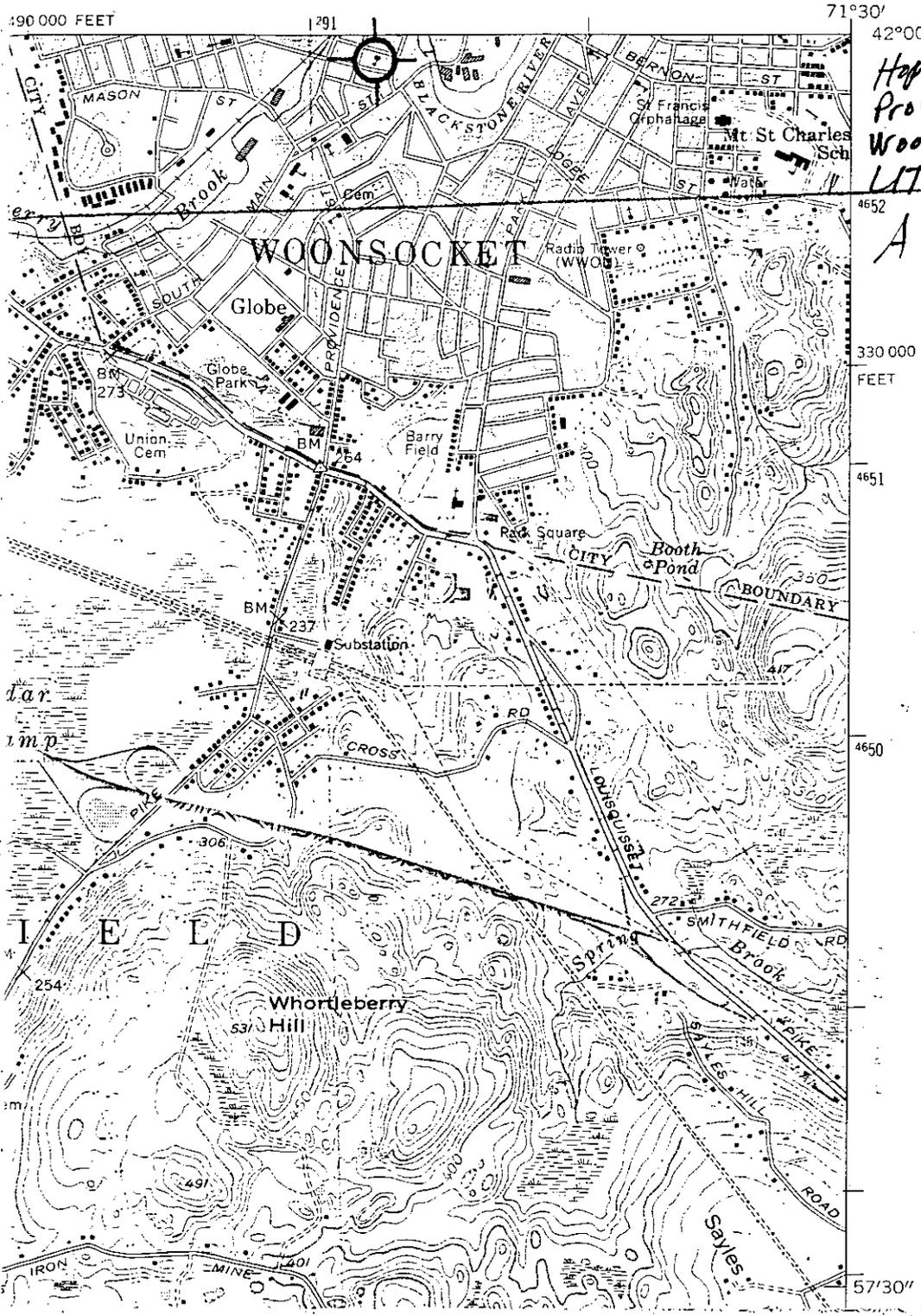
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Hape Street School  
Providence County  
Woonsocket, RI  
LITM Ref.

A 19-291250-4652560



Hope Street School  
Woonsocket RI

Providence County

Photo # 1 of 7

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KEEP OUT  
DANGER  
POLICE

GAP

Hope St. School

Woonsocket RI

Providence County

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Hope St School

Woonsocket RI

Providence County

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Hope St. School

Woonsocket RI

Providence County

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Hope St. School

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