

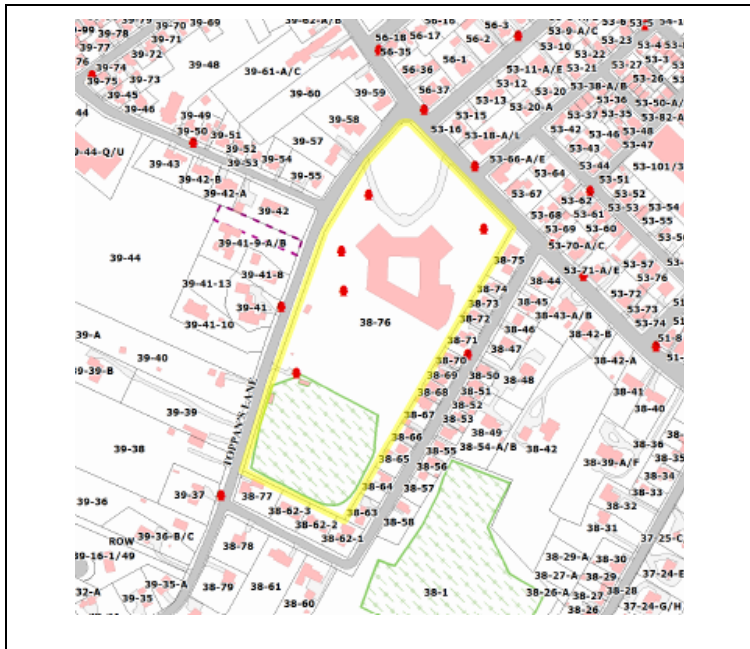
# FORM B – BUILDING

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

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Spencer & Vogt Group, Inc.

**Date (month / year):** June, 2014

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
2289			NWB.2885

**Town/City:** Newburyport

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 241 High Street

**Historic Name:** Newburyport High School

**Uses:** Present: School

Original: School

**Date of Construction:** 1937

**Source:** City assessor's records

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Edwin Sherill Dodge

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Cast stone

Wall/Trim: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Rear addition (2001)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☐ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 13.3 acres

**Setting:** Prominent location at the crest of a shallow hill; significantly set back from the street with a dramatic entrance. Residential neighborhood in which high style Federal-era houses predominate.

National Register District (8/2/1984)

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN

ADDRESS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

NWB.2885

☐ 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.*

Built in 1936-37, the Newburyport High School is a handsome example of the Colonial Revival style and employs the classically-inspired vocabulary used widely for civic buildings in the first half of the 20th century.

The north-facing, masonry structure is roughly H-shaped in plan with a central three-story block flanked by two angled two-story wings at the façade and two perpendicular wings at the rear. The nine-bay central block has a hipped roof; the five-bay projections are flat-roofed. The red brick building has cast stone lintels and is ornamented with painted wood trim. The principal (north) elevation is dominated by a two-story portico comprising four Ionic columns, an architrave, and egg-shaped finials above the columns. A stepped parapet embellished with urns, quoins and a clock is surmounted by a two-tier hexagonal cupola with a copper dome and sailing ship weathervane. Window surrounds on the principal elevation are rectangular apart from the centered Palladian window at the third story. The double-leaf main entry contains an arched transom and divided light panels framed by a pedimented surround. The entrance is approached by shallow concrete steps.

The north elevations of the angled wings flanking the main block are symmetrical with continuous parapets set off by band courses of wood trim. The center bays feature double-leaf entries with high arched transoms flanked by rectangular transomed windows with pilastered surrounds. Oculus windows at the second story over the arched windows are centered under pedimented portions of the band course. Blind roundels surmount the ornate rectangular windows. The northeast elevation of the northeast wing has seven bays comprising five windows with arched transoms at the second story, five rectangular windows at the first story, and semicircular ground level porticoes at the outside bays. The flat-roofed porticoes have wrought iron balustrades and protect double-leaf entries with elliptical fanlights. The northwest elevation of the northwest wing has seven bays. There are rectangular windows at both levels and a rectangular portico at the northernmost outside bay with a single sidelighted, transomed entry. A brick wall and white painted steel railings enclosing symmetrical concrete platforms, stairs and sloped paths for handicap access span the width of the façade.

A 2001 wedge-shaped addition adjoins the south walls of the rear projections and contributes to the enclosure of an open courtyard. The south elevation at the courtyard has nine bays of single and grouped rectangular windows at three levels. A centered bay window with a copper roof at the third story is surmounted by an oculus under a semicircular cornice projection. The other secondary elevations of the 1937 building feature single and grouped rectangular windows except for the southeast elevation of the northeast wing, which has double-leaf solid panel doors with elliptical fanlights at the outermost bays.

## 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.*

In 1868 three secondary schools in Newburyport – a boys-only school, a girls-only school, and a free private school – united to form the Consolidated High and Putnam School. Classes were held in the former Putnam School located at the corner of High and Green Streets. After a remodeling in 1889 the school became known as The Newburyport High School or simply, The High School. Progressive overcrowding led to a town vote in 1934 to build a new high school and the following year the historic estate property known as Mount Rural was acquired for the site. At the building's completion in 1937 the student body left the old building en masse, marched up High Street as a group, and entered the new school.

Mayor Gayden W. Morrill appointed Newburyport native Edwin Sherill Dodge (1874-1938) as architect. Dodge trained at MIT and later graduated from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. With various partners he designed the Ellen T. Brown Memorial Chapel at Oak Hill Cemetery in Newburyport, the Hartford Fire Insurance Company building in Hartford, Connecticut, the

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memorial to Edwin Booth in Grammercy Park, New York City, and buildings at Bradford College in Haverhill and Smith College in Northampton. In 1963 an addition designed by architects Desmond & Lord was constructed across the south ends of the south ells of the original building. This 15-room wing was removed in 2001 and a much larger addition was constructed, nearly doubling the footprint of the school. Changes to the original building exterior included the installation of a prominent system of ramps and terraces to create full accessibility for the school entrances on each of the building elevations.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Massachusetts Archives. Building inspection files.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. MACRIS database.

*The Clipper's Compass: Student/Parent Handbook of the Newburyport High School*. 2013-2014.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin\\_Dodge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Dodge)