

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



854

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Acton High School  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 3 Charter Road

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

  
city or town Acton  
state MA code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01720

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

*Brona Simon*

*October 7, 2011*

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

*Jan Edson H. Beall*

*11-22-11*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Acton High School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/secondary school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
REVIVALS/Renaissance Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: SYNTHETICS/rubber  
other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acton High School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA

County and State

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The former Acton High School building is located near the geographic center of Acton, Massachusetts, a small suburban community roughly twenty miles northwest of Boston. The school property sits at the intersection of Charter Road and Massachusetts Avenue, a principal east/west thoroughfare for the town. Just north of the old high school, along Charter Road between Massachusetts Avenue and Hayward Road, are three public school complexes: the Parker Damon Building (housing two elementary schools), the R.J. Grey Junior High School, and the current Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. Massachusetts Avenue in the vicinity of the old high school is dominated by commercial uses, while the area west of the high school property has been subdivided into large, modern suburban house lots. The historic high school building sits on a prominent 3.1-acre corner lot. Grass lawns are maintained at the front, rear, and west side of the building, while a packed-dirt yard abuts the east elevation. Overgrown foundation plantings line much of the façade, and a number of mature trees dot the site. Concrete walkways lead to entrances at the front and rear. Cyclone fencing encloses land at the front (south) of the school.

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### Narrative Description

The Acton High School is a two-story, red-brick building designed in the Renaissance Revival style, which is most pronounced in the rows of tall arched windows dominating the second floor of the façade (Photo 1). Constructed in 1925, the school consists of a main block and two small rear additions (ca. 1950), forming a U-shaped plan. The building is trimmed with a combination of limestone and cast-stone elements in the form of quoins, pilasters, keystones, entry surrounds, pediments, a watertable, and a belt course. Window openings hold modern aluminum 1/1 sash. The main block rests on a cast-stone foundation, and is enclosed by a flat roof, finished with rubber roofing and framed by a low brick parapet with a sheet-metal coping. The parapet is stepped at the façade (south elevation). The roofline at the façade and side elevations is defined by a limestone fascia and sheet-metal cornice.

#### *Main Block*

The symmetrical façade (south elevation) is fifteen bays wide and features two shallow, projecting entry pavilions. At the lower level of these identical pavilions is an entry with a low granite stoop and limestone surrounds. The entry doors are framed by simple molding and topped by a prominent segmental pediment on brackets (Photo 3). The historic glazed and paneled-wood double doors that formerly occupied the entries were replaced by the existing modern metal doors (ca. 1980). Above each main entry is a narrow window flanked by brick pilasters that rise to simple limestone capitals, supporting a gabled pediment. Windows at the first floor have splayed brick heads, while those at the upper floor have arched heads with limestone sills, keystones, and impostes (Photo 2). Windows at the second floor are separated by slender limestone pilasters with simple, stylized capitals. At either end of the second floor is a blind arch original to the building, each with a limestone keystone, sill, and impostes. Limestone quoins flank the end bays of the façade.

(continued)

Acton High School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

The two side elevations (east and west) are nearly identical, except for a variation in the arrangement of windows (Photos 4 & 5). These simple brick elevations rise from a cast-stone watertable and are defined by limestone quoins. The cast-stone belt course separates the two floors. Window openings are defined by cast-stone sills and splayed brick heads.

The rear elevation (north) of the main block has less architectural detailing than the other exterior walls (Photo 6). The rear wall rises from a low cast-stone watertable, and features three brick buttresses centered on the lower level (Photo 7). A simple brick belt course defines the roofline beneath the parapet. Windows are a combination of arched and flat openings, all with splayed brick heads. Second-floor windows have cast-stone sills. A wide entrance at the west end is topped by a splayed brick head and holds a modern metal door. At the east end of the main block there is evidence of an original doorway that was subsequently infilled with brick. This door originally provided access to an enclosed rear stair, which is no longer extant.

#### *Rear Additions*

When originally constructed, the building included a small one-story rear addition off the northwest corner that held the boiler room. The original boiler room ell was replaced by the existing northwest addition around 1950 (the exact date of construction is not known; it does not appear on the Sanborn atlas of 1945, yet does show up on an aerial photograph from 1969). The addition holds a boiler room at the lower level and a classroom above. This addition is a two-story, brick, utilitarian structure resting on a low, cast-stone water table and enclosed by a flat roof. Ornamentation is limited to simple brick corbelling along the roof edge (Photo 8). Fenestration has been modified over time and is irregular, with windows of varying sizes and asymmetrical placement. Window openings have cast-stone sills and splayed brick heads. The rear elevation appears to have been modified significantly (ca. 1970s), with the addition of a fire escape, new windows, and wood infill at the upper floor. Two entrances from the fire escape hold modern, flush metal doors.

The two-story brick addition at the northeast corner of the building appears to have been constructed about the same time as the northwest addition (ca. 1950) and features the same detailing. This addition was designed with a bathroom and recessed entry at the lower level, while the upper floor was used as offices. When first constructed, two large brick arches (one on the north face and another on the west face) provided access to a recessed entry; the west archway has since been infilled with brick. The entry remains, but it now holds a modern door. Access to the entry can also be gained via an added opening in the west wall of the addition. This opening formerly led to an enclosed exterior stair that was removed (date unknown).

#### *Interior*

The historic interior floor plan remains somewhat intact, with classrooms opening off of a wide central corridor (running east/west). Partitions dividing the various classrooms have been modified over time, with the addition of new walls and removal of older ones as needed to accommodate changing class sizes. The original auditorium space was altered in the 1970s to create two classrooms but it retains much of its historic fabric, including coffered ceilings, baseboards, window trim, and a paneled-wood proscenium arch (Photo 9). Historic finishes within the office area at the second floor of the northeast addition are intact, and consist of bead board wainscoting, wood window surrounds, and door casings (Photo 10). Throughout the remainder of the building, finishes are typically more recent, largely dating to the 1970s.

(continued)

Acton High School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

### Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the Acton High School property, it is possible that sites are present. One ancient site is recorded in the general area (within one mile), located near the confluence of Fort Pond and Grassy Pond brooks, approximately 0.75 miles west of the school. In general, environmental characteristics of the school property do not represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The school does occupy level to moderately sloping terrain; however, natural soils have been altered by cutting, filling, and urban development. Soil types for the high school and surrounding area are classified as Udorthents-Urban land soils, where soils have been disturbed by cutting and/or filling, and areas that are covered by buildings and pavement. Wetlands are also generally absent within 1,000 feet of the school, except for one small unnamed pond located approximately 750 feet to the southwest. In 2009, a town wide archaeological reconnaissance survey was conducted for the Town of Acton. During that survey the Acton High School property was included in the Acton Center/East Acton survey unit, which contained two known ancient Native American sites. Both sites were located west of the high school, in uplands immediately bordering Nashoba Brook and its tributaries. The Acton High School area was considered a low sensitivity locale for ancient sites. Given the above information, the size of the nominated property (3.1 acres), and impacts associated with construction of the main block of the school (1925), two small rear additions (ca. 1950), and related utilities, a low potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American resources on the Acton High School property.

A low potential also exists for locating significant historic archaeological resources on the Acton High School property. No structures or other forms of historic land use have been identified for the high school property, prior to construction of the existing school in 1925. Structural evidence of the original boiler room ell, demolished for construction of the existing northwest addition (ca. 1950), may survive; however, evidence of the ell was probably destroyed by the northwest addition. Documentary evidence should also exist for the boiler room ell, which has little significance or research potential as an archaeological resource. During the town wide archaeological reconnaissance survey noted above, seven historic archaeological sites were identified in the Acton Center/East Acton survey unit, and one site was previously recorded in MHC files. The historic sites in this survey unit included a cluster of industrial sites along Nashoba Brook, and farmsteads/residential sites dispersed throughout the unit. The Acton High School property was considered a low-sensitivity area during the survey.

(end)

Acton High School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

**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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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 individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1925-1961

**Significant Dates**

1925

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Bickford, John H./ Duncan Construction Company  
and John F. Cabeen

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the construction date of the school, the only extant building on the site, and ends at the 50-year cut off point of 1961.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Acton High School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The former Acton High School possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets Criteria A and C at the local level for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The school is significant for its associations with the history of public education in the town of Acton, and as a well-preserved example of institutional architecture in Acton. It was the town's first school building constructed specifically to accommodate a high school, and served that purpose for nearly 30 years. Subsequent use as an elementary school resulted in an additional 45 years of use by local school children. Occupying a prominent location at the center of town, the former Acton High School is an important architectural landmark for the community. It is the town's only example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century school building, and is representative of the typical revival-style brick schoolhouses that were constructed throughout the region.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Land that makes up Acton was part of the town of Concord until 1735, when it was set off as an independent municipality. Although primarily an agricultural community throughout most of its history, Acton also became an important manufacturing center for the production of wooden barrels in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the coming of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844 and the addition of two other lines (Nashua & Acton Railroad and Framingham & Lowell Railroad), the town became a busy rail center for east-central Massachusetts. Increased accessibility, provided by the rail lines, resulted in expanded settlement and development throughout Acton. By 1900, the town's five villages were home to 2,120 residents. Agriculture remained the mainstay of the local economy well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with apples being the principal export, nationally and to Europe, into the 1950s. Since 1950 the farms and orchards have been gradually subdivided into smaller lots as the demand for suburban housing has risen. Today the town has a population of roughly 21,000 residents.

Constructed in 1925, the building was the first in Acton to be built for the specific purpose of housing the town high school. The history of Acton's public school system dates back to 1741, when the town first voted to fund a "reading, writing, and moving school," (Hurd 1890, p. 278) meaning that instead of building separate schoolhouses in the various town villages, classes would be held in private homes for several consecutive weeks, moving from one part of town to another. Prior to 1741, those students who received an education did so in small, privately funded local schools. In 1743, three school districts were established in town, increasing to six districts in 1757. Districting varied over the years, with five districts voted in 1790 and four districts from 1800 to 1830, at which time six districts were established. The town continued to be served by six districts until the 1870s, when the schools were consolidated. The result was the creation of three schools, one in each of the most heavily populated villages: Acton Center, South Acton, and West Acton. High school classes were first proposed for the town in 1853 but did not become a reality until 1883, after several attempts to garner support from townspeople. In order to accommodate high school students in the three principal villages, the high school year was divided into three sessions, one to be held at each of the three village schools. In the fall of 1883 high school classes commenced, with an enrollment of 48 students, ranging in age from 11 to 20. The roving high school remained in place for ten years and was continually a source of tension between town residents, who had to travel roughly two miles to attend high school when it was in session outside their own district. Transportation was always an issue and the cause of much debate. The town meetings of 1886, 1888, and 1891 all defeated articles that would have provided transportation for the high school students. Nevertheless, the high school was well attended and very quickly became overcrowded. As early as 1886, the school superintendent pointed out how difficult it would be to continue to accommodate the high school students in the three grammar schools.

(continued)

Acton High School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA

County and State

In 1893 the roving high school ceased, and high school classes were held instead on the second floor of the South schoolhouse, where two teachers were employed. A full, four-year curriculum was also adopted that year, with two programs of study—one for those students intending to attend college (Classical Course) and another for those students who wished to enter the workforce or pursue other goals (English Course). This was standard practice for high schools throughout the country. In larger towns and cities there were often separate high schools for the college preparatory courses and for the commercial, manual, and technical training classes. Smaller communities, like Acton, combined the curriculums into a single high school. At Acton High School, both the Classical and English courses taught a basic curriculum of English, French, arithmetic, science, and history, but the Classical Course also included Latin and English History, while the English Course offered additional courses in geology, elocution, and botany.

The first students to complete the full four-year high school in Acton graduated in 1895. Between 1898 and 1925, several attempts to erect a high school building failed to win a positive vote at town meeting, due largely to the fact that none of the villages wanted to travel to a school outside their neighborhood. High school classes continued to be held at the South schoolhouse until 1907, by which time the building was overcrowded and aging. In fact, the local building inspector served notice that the high school could no longer be held there. In June 1907, the town meeting warrant once again included an article to “see if the town will vote to purchase or take by right of eminent domain a suitable piece of land and build a high school building thereon...,” but once again the motion failed. Instead, school administrators made arrangements to transfer students in the three upper high school grades to the neighboring high school in Concord. Freshman students attended school in West Acton until 1913 when they too were sent to Concord High School. Following many years of debate, in 1925, Acton finally voted to purchase land and erect a high school “at a cost not in excess of one hundred thousand dollars.” The school was to be located in the vicinity of what was known as Kelley’s Corner, near the geographic center of town. Improvements in transportation seem to have weakened villagers’ rivalries and objections to traveling to the center of town to attend school. Students first occupied the upper-floor classrooms in January of 1926, and by September of the same year the school was fully functioning, with 102 students attended by a faculty of six.

The Acton High School was designed by Boston architect/engineer John H. Bickford (1860-1932) and built by Duncan Construction Company and John F. Cabeen. Bickford was born in Alton, New Hampshire, but lived most of his life in Salem, Massachusetts. He trained as an electrical engineer and worked for a time at the Salem Division of the Boston & Northern Telephone. He later became an architect and was responsible for the design of a number of street railway and lighting plants, including those in Reading and Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Manchester, New Hampshire, as well as buildings for the New York & Queens County Railway Company (no specific examples of Bickford’s railway work have been identified). Bickford was also responsible for buildings at the Essex County Tuberculosis Hospital in Middleton, Massachusetts, in 1928. Although the buildings at the Middleton campus have all been demolished, historic photographs of the buildings show that Bickford used a Colonial Revival style vocabulary in his designs there. It is also known that he designed a school building in Danvers, Massachusetts in 1915 (likely the Colonial Revival-style, red-brick Williams Elementary School, but this has not been confirmed), and renovations to the First Church of Christ in Concord (NRDIS). Bickford maintained an office in Boston from 1921 until 1931 when he formed a partnership with his son, also John, under the name John H. Bickford & Son. The firm did not continue after the death of John Sr. in 1932.

The Acton High School is typical of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century school buildings in the region in terms of style, scale, materials, and design. Typical of this building type are the rectangular plan, two stories, somewhat stylized detailing (principally Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, and Renaissance Revival), and articulated entries. The Acton High School is the only example of this building type in Acton, but there are several examples of comparable schools in nearby communities, including the Shattuck Street Elementary School in Littleton (1922),

(continued)

Acton High School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA

County and State

the Old Maynard High School in Maynard (1916), and the Fowler School, also in Maynard (1926). Most of these others have greater degree of alteration and additions, leaving the Acton High School as one of the best-preserved of its type. Five other historic school buildings have been documented in Acton, including the South Acton Schoolhouse (1799), Central District School (1798), West Acton Schoolhouse (1846), and the North Acton Schoolhouses (1839 and 1872). All of these early schools have been converted to private residences over the years (dates unknown).

By 1925, 92% of the Acton high school students were in the college preparatory, science, and commercial courses, leaving only a small percentage of students in the manual training and domestic science classes. As originally constructed, the high school held a large assembly hall at the lower level, along with several classrooms, offices, bathrooms, and a boiler room, while the second floor was devoted almost entirely to classroom space. Notations on the original architectural drawings indicate that the those classrooms at the first floor were devoted largely to vocational training, and included rooms for cooking, typewriting, and manual training, in addition to a general science laboratory. The second floor included a library and reading room. Students in the seventh and eighth grades were also accommodated in the new building for a time.

In 1927, fifteen students from the neighboring town of Boxborough were admitted to Acton High School, bringing the total number of students to 135 and beginning the joint high school system that remains today. The building continued to function as the town's high school until the mid-1950s. When a large regional high school was built in 1954 for the towns of Acton and Boxborough, the former high school was converted for use as an elementary school, and was subsequently renamed for former Acton teachers Julia McCarthy and Marion L. Towne (McCarthy-Towne School). It is likely that the existing rear additions were built at this time. During its 45 years as an elementary school, the old high school building received a substantial addition off its northeast corner (ca. 1960) but this addition was removed after the McCarthy-Towne elementary school moved to a new building (2001) on an adjacent parcel of land (see 2010 aerial view). The old high school, vacant since 2001, is in the process of being rehabilitated for use as rental apartments. Today, the town is served by five elementary schools (in buildings constructed after 1950), one junior high school, and a high school, which it shares with the neighboring town of Boxborough.

In 2006 the Town of Acton awarded development rights for the former Acton High School to Common Ground Development Corp., who have a 50-year lease on the building. Common Ground is in the process of converting the building to 17 residential apartments, using state and federal historic tax credits.

(end)

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Boston City Directories (various years)

Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Reference Department, Architects File

Choate, Isabella V. *A Short History of the Town of Acton*. Acton Historical Society website:

<http://www.actonhistoricalsociety.org/-1996>

Directory of Boston Architects, 1846-1970. Cambridge: Massachusetts Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, 1984.

Acton High School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

Hurd, D. Hamilton, History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Company, 1890.  
Insurance Atlas of Acton, Massachusetts. Sanborn Map Company, 1929, 1945.  
Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System. Massachusetts Historical Commission.  
Phalen, Harold R. History of the Town of Acton. Cambridge: Middlesex Printing, Inc., 1954.  
Reconnaissance Survey Town Report-Acton. Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1980  
Salem Town Directories (various years)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

MHC# ACT.656 HPCA #23,088

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.1  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>298147</u>	<u>4705464</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries include the land contained within lot 85 on town assessors map F3.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the land historically and directly associated with the Acton High School building.

Acton High School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Christine S. Beard, Tremont Preservation Services, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC  
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October, 2011  
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470  
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125  
e-mail christinebeard@verizon.net

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Acton High School

City or Vicinity: Acton

County: Middlesex State: Massachusetts

Photographer: Christine Beard

Date Photographed: Photos 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 – 4/14/2008  
Photos 2, 3, 4 – 11/12/07

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Image Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh1.tif	View north showing façade (south elevation)
2 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh2.tif	View northeast showing detail at east end of façade (south elevation)
3 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh3.tif	View north showing detail of west entry at façade (south elevation)

Acton High School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

4 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh4.tif	View northwest showing east elevation
5 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh5.tif	View east showing west elevation
6 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh6.tif	View southwest showing rear (north) elevation
7 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh7.tif	View southeast showing detail at center of rear (north) elevation
8 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh8.tif	View east showing west elevation of northwest addition
9 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh9.tif	View northwest from former stage area at first floor of main block showing proscenium
10 of 10	MA_Acton (Middlesex County)_ActonHigh10.tif	View southwest at second floor of northeast addition showing historic trim

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Acton, Ma  
street & number 472 Main Street telephone 978-264-9615  
city or town Acton state MA zip code 01720

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Massachusetts Historical Commission Photo Submission Form**

*Please submit one form for each group of digital images*

**About your digital files:**

Camera Used (make, model): Nikon D50

Resolution of original image capture (camera setting including resolution and file format):

3008 x 2000 (Photos 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10); 2000 x 3008 (Photos 3, 8)

File name(s) (attach additional sheets if necessary) check here  to refer to attached photo log:

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh1.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh9.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh2.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh10.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh3.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh4.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh5.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh6.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh7.tif

MA\_Acton (Middlesex County)\_ActonHigh8.tif

**About your prints:**

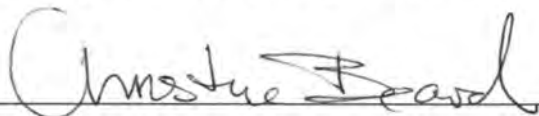
Printer make and model: Epson Stylus Photo 1400

Paper: brand & type (i.e., Epson Premium Glossy Photo)

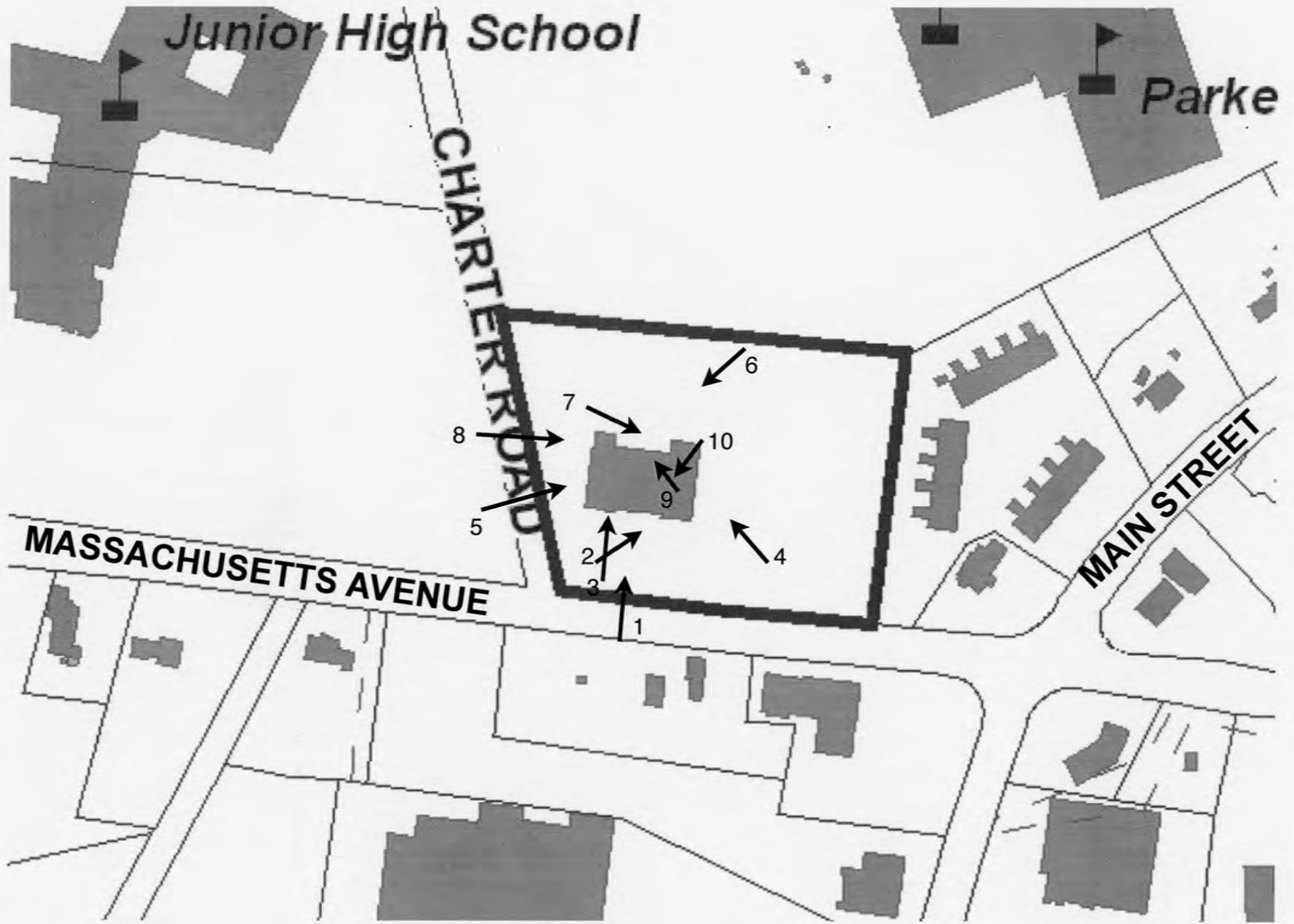
Epson Premium Glossy Photo

Ink: Epson Claria High Definition Ink

**Signature:** (By signing below you agree that the information provided here is true and accurate.)

Signature: 

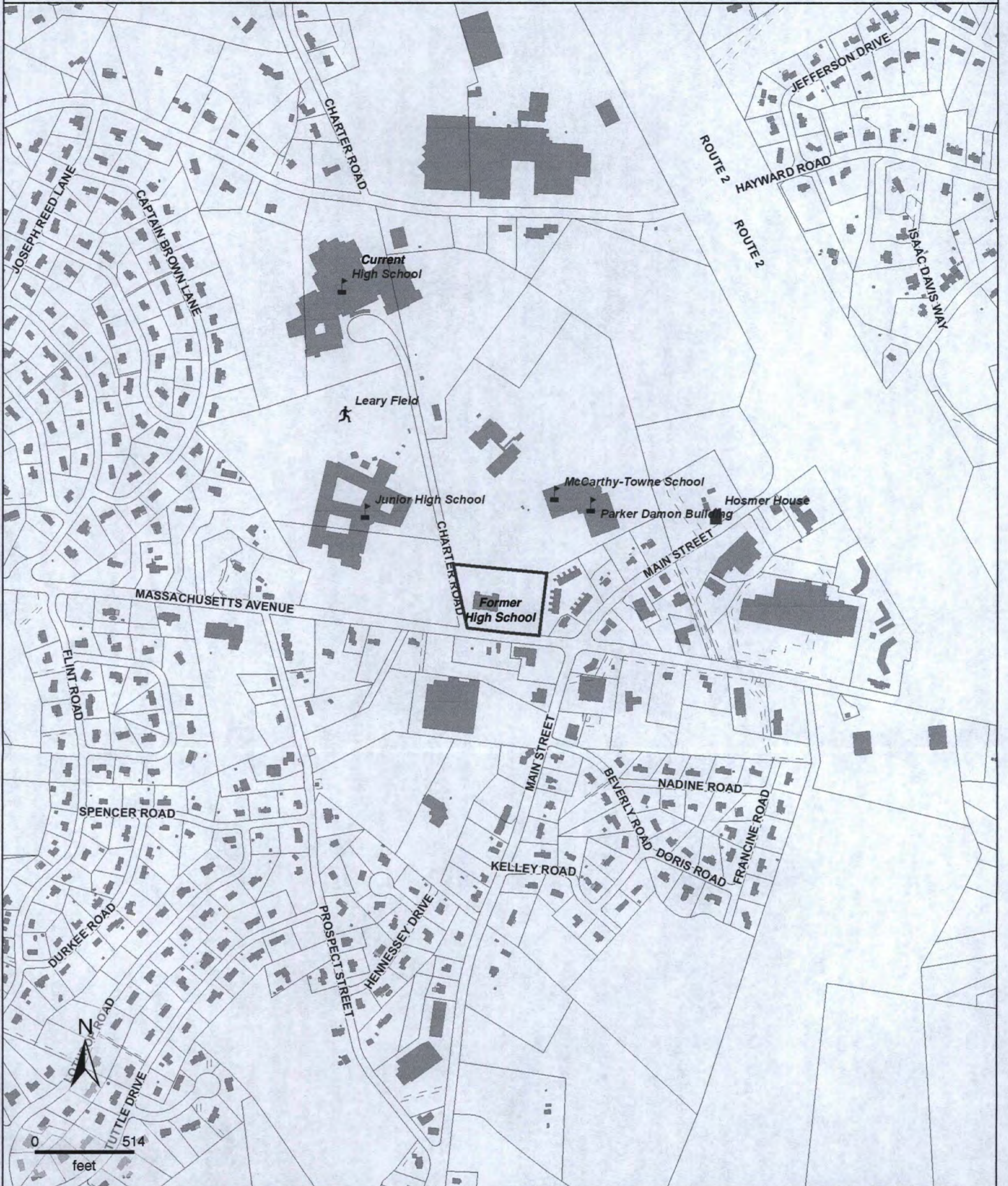
Date: 9/24/10



ACTON HIGH SCHOOL  
ACTON, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MA  
SKETCH MAP



Acton High School



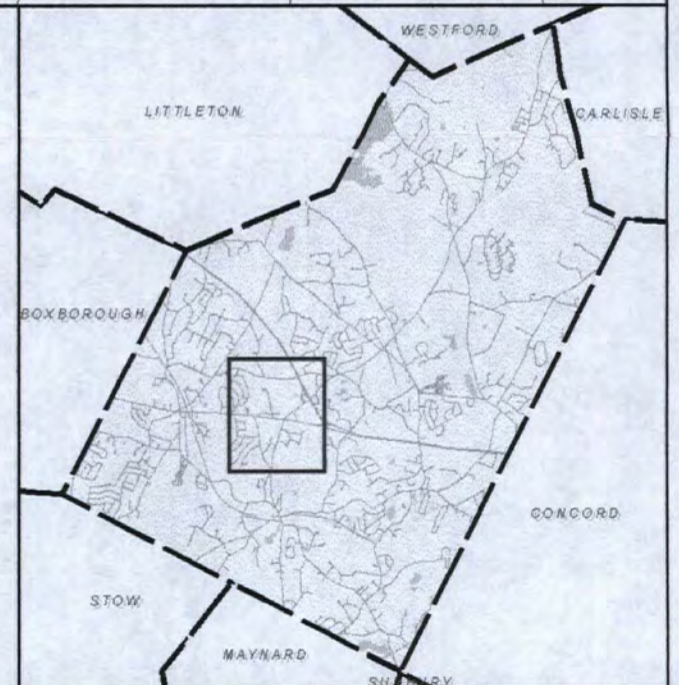
Property Information  
 Property ID F3-85  
 Location 3 CHARTER RD

ACTON HIGH SCHOOL  
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
 MA



MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY  
 NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

This data set/map is for planning purposes only and should not be used for larger scale analysis. The Town of Acton shall not be held liable for any use of the data or images shown on this map, nor is any warranty of accuracy expressed. All uses of this data set/map are subject to field verification.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Acton High School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 10/14/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/02/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/17/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/29/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000854

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 11.22.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA

Photo 1 of 10

MA - ACTON (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTONHIGH1.tif

CHRISTINE BEARD photo APR 2008

SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW NORTH

PHOTO 1



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA

Photo 2 of 10

MA - ACTON (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTON HIGH 2. tif

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO NOV 2007

DETAIL at E END of FACADE of S ELEV. VIEW NE

PHOTO 2



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA

Photo 3 of 10

MA\_ACTON(MIDDLESEXCOUNTY)-ACTONHIGH3.tif

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO NOV 2007

DETAIL, WEST ENTRY at FACADE (SOUTH ELEV.) LOOKING N

PHOTO 3



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA  
Photo 4 of 10

MA - ACTON (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTON HIGH 4. ff

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO NOV 2007

EAST ELEV. LOOKING NW

PHOTO 4



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA  
Photo 5 of 10

MA - ACTON (~~MA~~ MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTON HIGH S. tif

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO APR 2008

WEST ELEV. LOOKING EAST

PHOTO 5



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA  
Photo 6 of 10

MA - ACTON (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTON HIGH 6.tif

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO APR 2008

NORTH (REAR) ELEVATION, LOOKING SW

PHOTO 6



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA  
Photo 7 of 10

MA - ACTON (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTON HIGH 7.tif

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO APR 2008

DETAIL at CENTER of REAR (NORTH) ELEVATION, VIEW SE

PHOTO 7



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA  
Photo 8 of 10

MA - ACTON (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTON HIGH 8. tif

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO APR 2008

WEST ELEV. of NW ADDITION, VIEW E

PHOTO 8



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA  
Photo 9 of 10

MA - ACTON (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTON HIGH 9. f7f

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO APR 2008

VIEW ~~RE~~ <sup>NW</sup> from FORMER STAGE AREA at 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR  
of MAIN BLOCK, SHOWING PROSCENIUM

PHOTO 9



Acton High School  
Middlesex County, MA  
Photo 10 of 10

MA - ACTON (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) - ACTONHIGH10.tif

CHRISTINE BEARD PHOTO APR 2008

VIEW SW @ 2ND FLOOR of NORTHEAST ADDITION  
SHOWING HISTORIC TRIM

PHOTO 10

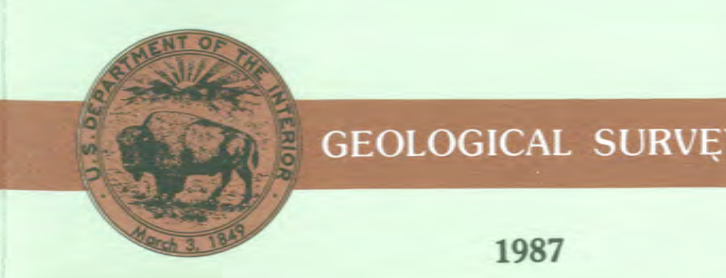
# Maynard MASSACHUSETTS

ACTON (MIDDLESEX) MA  
1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies  
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978 and 1981. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1987  
 Supersedes Maynard and Concord 1:25 000-scale maps dated 1965 and 1970  
 Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19  
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone  
 1927 North American Datum  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

THIS MAP COMPLEYS WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5616
3	9.8424
4	13.1232
5	16.4040
6	19.6848
7	22.9656
8	26.2464
9	29.5272
10	32.8080

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
 To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

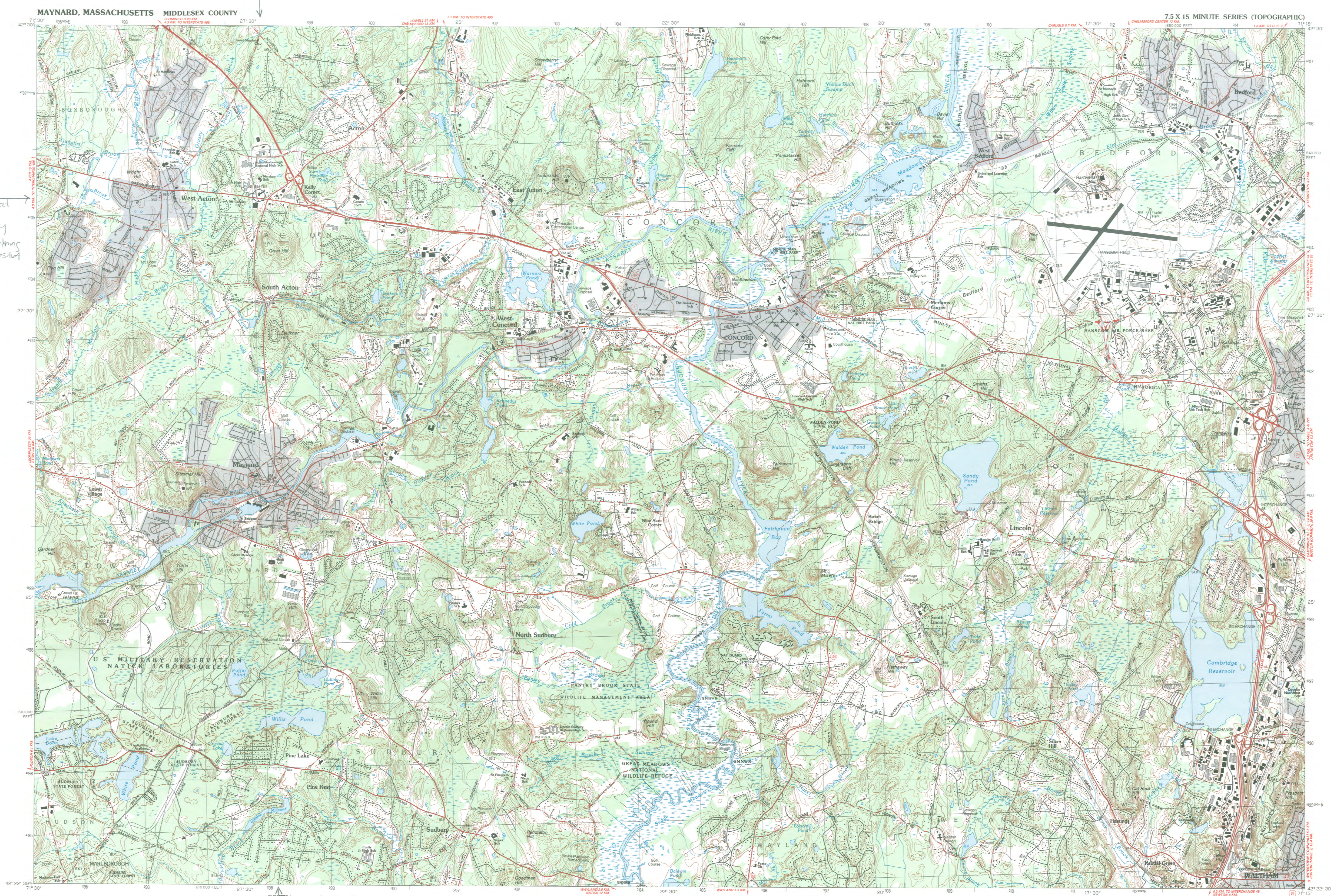


### Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	—
Secondary highway, hard surface	—
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	—
Unimproved road; trail	—
Route marker: Interstate; U. S. State	—
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage	—
Bridge: drawbridge	—
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	—
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	—
House: barn; church; school; large structure	—
Boundary:	—
National, with monument	—
State	—
County, parish	—
Civil township, precinct, district	—
Incorporated city, village, town	—
National or State reservation; small park	—
Land grant with monument; found section corner	—
U. S. public lands survey; range, township section	—
Range, township; section line location appropriate	—
Fence or field line	—
Power transmission line, located tower	—
Dam; dam with lock	—
Cemetery; grave	—
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	—
Well; water well; spring	—
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	—
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	—
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	—
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	—
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	—
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	—
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	—
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp	—
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	—
Sand; moraine	—
Orchard; vineyard	—

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092



Acton High School  
Acton, MA  
Middlesex County  
Zone 19  
Easting  
298147  
Northing  
4705147



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 7, 2011

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Acton High School, 3 Charter Road, Acton (Middlesex), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Michael Gowing, Chair, Acton Board of Selectmen  
Karen Frederick, Common Ground Development Corp.  
William Klauer, Acton Historical Commission  
Christine Beard, Tremont Preservation Services  
Ryan Bettez, Acton Planning Board