

**MEMORANDUM**

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**To:** Philip Gray  
Jonathan Levi Architects  
**From:** Araba Prah  
**Date:** November 7, 2017  
**Project:** Fuller Middle School- Framingham High School Feasibility Study

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Building Conservation Associates, Inc. (BCA) was asked to research the historic status of Fuller Middle School (located at 31 Flagg Drive, Framingham, MA). The purpose of this research was to determine if the building is listed on any state, local or national inventories of historic properties or located within or adjacent to any historic districts. In addition, the goal of the research was to determine if there were any issues that might trigger regulatory review or mitigation measures when a future project is filed with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC).

**MHC REVIEW PROCESS**

As noted on the MHC website (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/>):

Any new construction projects or renovations to existing buildings that require funding, licenses, or permits from any state or federal governmental agencies must be reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for impacts to historic and archaeological properties. It is the nature of the federal or state agency involvement that triggers MHC review, not listing in the National or State Registers of Historic Places. A listing in either register does not necessarily require review and likewise, lack of listing does not eliminate the need for review.

A Project Notification Form (PNF) is submitted to the MHC for review. The MHC's response to the PNF will include the following:

- whether there are known or anticipated historic or archaeological properties within the project area,
- whether the project is likely to affect historic or archaeological properties,
- whether further MHC review is warranted,
- whether additional information is needed to assess the likelihood that historic or archaeological properties will be affected by the proposed project,
- whether an archaeological survey or historic study of the property is warranted, and
- what, if any, avoidance or mitigation measures may be appropriate.

Historic properties and significant archaeological sites are defined as those that are listed on a national, state, or local historic register; are within a national, state, or local historic district; or which meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The criteria for evaluating eligibility are as follows:

- A. [Properties or sites] That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Typically properties that are less than 50 years old are not eligible for listing in the National Register except in cases of exceptional importance under one of the criteria above.

## RESEARCH SUMMARY

According to the *Town of Framingham Assessor's Online Database*, Fuller Middle School located at 31 Flagg Drive, Framingham, MA (formerly known as the Framingham South High School) was constructed around 1959.<sup>1</sup> Since the building is over 50 years old, it can be considered "historic" and eligible for listing on historic registers. Despite this, BCA has not found evidence that the building located at 31 Flagg Drive has been listed on any national, state, or local historic registers, or that it is located within a historic district. Online databases of local, state, and national registers were assessed. Below is a summary of the online inventories consulted to determine if the property has local, state, or national significance.

- *National Register for Historic Places (NRHP)*: Fuller Middle School was not listed on the NRHP register.
- *National Historic Landmarks (NHL)*: Fuller Middle School was not listed on the NHL register.
- *Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Inventories*: The MHC maintains comprehensive local inventories of cultural resources, which identify National Register-eligible properties within communities. Even though MHC cultural resources database contains a number of individual properties within Framingham, Fuller Middle School is not listed as an historic resource in the cultural resources database.
- Framingham contains two Local Historic Districts (LHD) and three Single Property Districts (SPD).
  - Center Commons LHD
  - Jonathan Maynard LHD
  - Sarah Clayes House SPD
  - Pike-Haven-Foster House SPD
  - H.H. Richardson Depot SPD
 Fuller Middle School is not located within these districts.

Below is an abbreviated timeline/history of the school building located at 31 Flagg Drive:

- 1959: The school building is constructed at 31 Flagg Drive.
- 1959-1963: The school is known as Framingham High School.

<sup>1</sup> "31 Flagg Drive Summary." *Town of Framingham Assessor's Online Database -Patriot Properties*, Patriot Properties, <<http://framingham.patriotproperties.com/Summary.asp?AccountNumber=6018>>

- Fall of 1963-1991: The school's name is changed to Framingham South High School by the fall of 1963. The name change is the result of a new high school (Framingham North High School) built at 115 A Street due to increased population in the area.<sup>2</sup>
- Summer of 1991: Framingham South High School moves out of the building at 31 Flagg Drive to merge with Framingham North High School located at 115 A Street.<sup>3</sup>
- Fall of 1995 through present: Fuller Middle School is established and moves into the school building located at 31 Flagg Drive.<sup>4</sup> The school is named after Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller—the first recognized African American psychiatrist in the United States, and a resident of Framingham during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

While Fuller Middle School is not listed in historic registers, the adjacent property located at 19 Flagg Drive (formally known as Louis W. Farley Middle School) is listed in the *Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Inventories* database as a building of significance.

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<sup>2</sup> *A History of Public Education in Framingham*. Framingham State College, 1975. 24

<sup>3</sup> District Planning and Review Task Force Report to Superintendent Dr. Trayer. 81

<sup>4</sup> District Planning and Review Task Force Report to Superintendent Dr. Trayer. 81