

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

279

In Area no.	Form no.
	24C-42



Northampton

Address 380 Elm Street

Northampton High School

Present use School building

Present owner City of Northampton

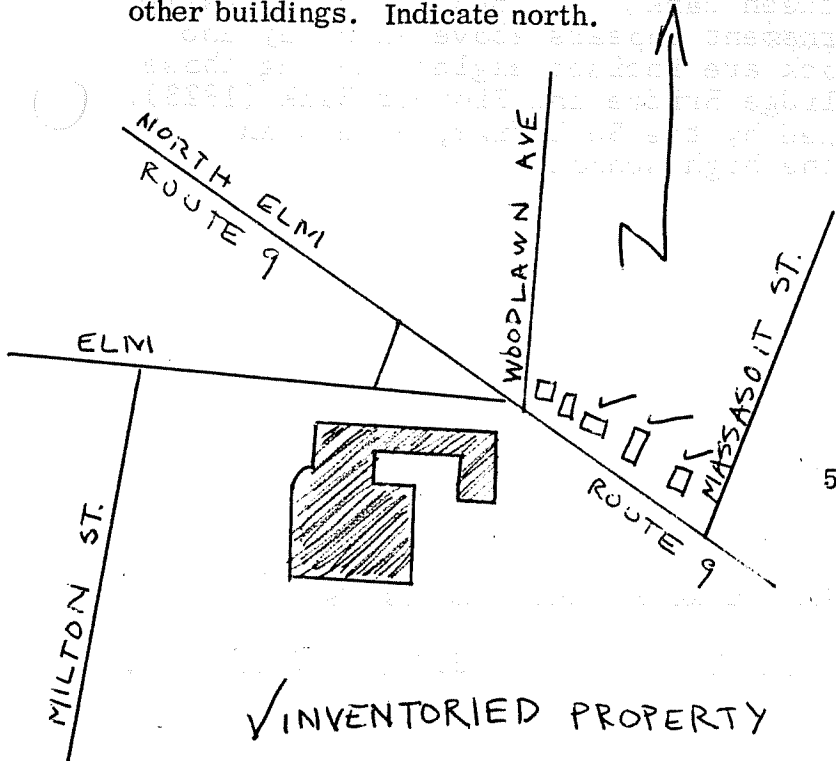
Description:

1939-40; addition-1960

Source City Reports, 1938

Art Deco

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect J. Williams Beal Sons

Exterior wall fabric brick/stone/concrete

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features brick, concrete, & steel facade; cast ornament; large window areas; incised eagles in stone

Altered addition Date 1960

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre _____ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 1000 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 50 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date June 1, 1976

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

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7. Original owner (if known) High School (City of Northampton)
 Original use High School
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates High School

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> x </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ Humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> x </u>				

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Northampton's third large high school building was built at the upper end of Elm-Street in 1939. It was preceded by a gothic revival structure (1860's, WF Pratt, now demolished) and a Classical Revival style school (1895, Gardner, Pyne, & Gardner, now D. A. Sullivan School). When built, the new high school incorporated special foreign language, industrial arts, and social sciences class rooms; a new emphasis was also placed on sports, with large gyms and locker rooms.

The High School is decidedly modern in its styling. Abstract "columns" of concrete rise between banks of windows, rhythmically dividing the facade. Cast ornament appears above each bay and at the corners of the main block are incised eagles echoing those which can be found on the Coolidge Bridge and Pioneer Bank (1928). The bank in particular, designed by the Beal firm, offers an informative comparison with the high school.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

City Reports, School Committee, 1938. Forbes Library.