

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

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

47 40			
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Photograph



Town: Tewksbury

Place (neighborhood or village): Tewksbury Center

Name of Area: Tewksbury Center School & Stadium

Present Use: School Administration, Primary School & Stadium

Construction Dates or Period: c1930-1999

Overall Condition: Good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:

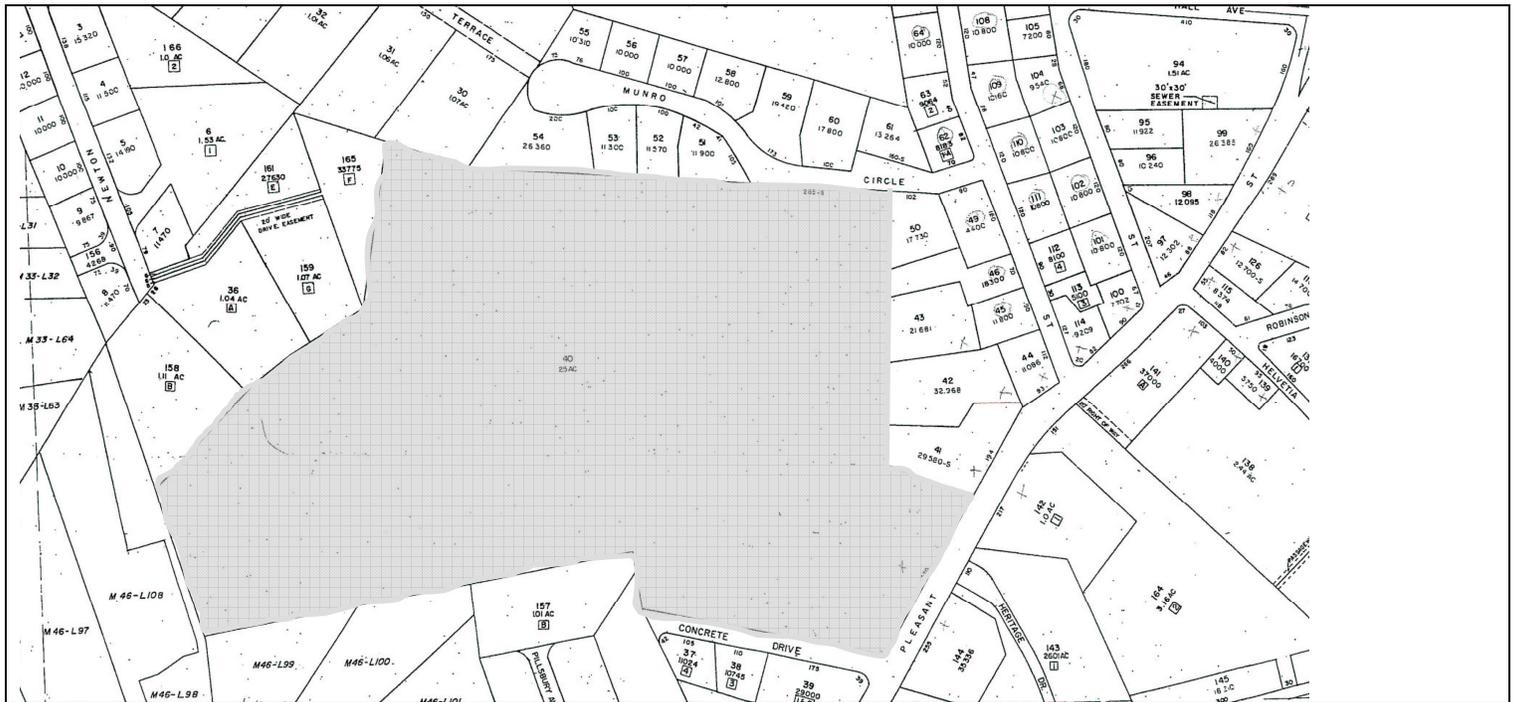
Acreage: 25 Acres

Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry, tl-architects

Organization: Tewksbury Historical Commission

Date (month/year): July 2010

Topographic or Assessor's Map



— see continuation sheet

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET TEWKSBUURY TEWKSBUURY CENTER SCHOOL & STADIUM

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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, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The complex of structures at **135-9 Pleasant Street** includes a late-20th century elementary school, a NeoClassical Style School, and a 1930s stadium with associated bleachers and buildings. The primary entrance to the site is from Pleasant Street. Playing fields occupy the north end of the site along the southern edge of Munro Circle.

The **Tewksbury Center School** is numbered **139 Pleasant Street**. A fenced in playground is located along Pleasant Street south of the main entrance portico.

The NeoClassical Style school building consists of a two-story building flanked by a one story ell to both the north and south. The entire building is rectangular in plan. Entrance to the building is marked by a pediment with tympanum decorated with a starburst motif. The primary siding is brick. The central portion of the building is eleven bays by three bays. The basic unit of fenestration for the main building consists of 15/15 wood double hung windows on the first floor, 10/10 wood double hung windows on the second floor, a Palladian window on the north gable end, and oval windows in the north and south bays of the second floor. The primary building is capped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Brick parapets containing flues and vents demarcate the north and south ends of the gable roof. The primary entrance features a pair of doors beneath a large decorative transom. The recessed doors are surrounded by an elaborate decorative surround topped by a broken pediment.

The main building retains many of the details that characterize its NeoClassical Style including: the front gable entry portico supported by two-story Corinthian columns and pilasters, the wide frieze band with the band of dentil molding, the decoratively clad end bays framed by Corinthian pilasters, the broken pediment of the door surround, and keystones in the brick lintels.

The one-story ells are capped by flat roofs. Each ell features a decorative beltcourse above the windows. The east entrance of the north ell is marked by a large keystone and flat arch. Similar keystones are found above the windows on each ell. All the buildings are set on a raised base punctuated by rectangular multi-pane windows which illuminate the basement interior.

The **John F Ryan Elementary School** at **135 Pleasant Street** is located to the rear (west) of the Tewksbury Memorial High School. The Post-Modern brick school features a two-story brick foyer, a plan that is arranged around a central outdoor courtyard, a gymnasium, and cafeteria.¹

The Tewksbury Stadium, now known as Doucette Stadium, is located to the north of schools. The field is bounded on three sides by a chain link fence and the entire area is 202,000 SF. The stadium includes a stand of concrete bleachers, a visitor's stand of metal bleachers, a field house with locker rooms, a garage, two concession stands, and entry gates with a ticket booth. The rectangular football field is ringed by a paved driveway, formerly used as a track. To the west of the field are visitor's stands and a concession stand. To the east of the field are the field house, the concrete bleachers, and a concessions stand. To the south of the field are the garage and entrance gate. To the rear (west) of the visitor's stands is the football practice field. The simple concrete construction of the football stand and fence cap stones are combined with the natural field stone material of the field house, ticket booth and gate posts.

Access to the stadium is through a drive behind the Center School. A row of fieldstone pillars and a fieldstone ticket booth demarcate the southern edge of the stadium complex. Just past the entrance gate to the west is a two-bay storage garage. The storage garage is one-story with an asphalt shingle hip roof. To the west of the garage is the scoreboard and flagpole.

¹ http://www.arcusa.com/Ryan_School_Tewksbury.html Accessed March 15, 2010

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The field house is located to the northeast of the entrance. The field house consists of a two-story central portion flanked by one story ells to the north and south. The main building and ells have hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The wood framed-upper story of the main building rests on a fieldstone first floor that contains the locker rooms and offices. The ells are wood framed and clad in clapboards.

The concrete bleacher stand consists of four sections, eight rows high. There is a press box centrally located above the seats and restrooms underneath the stands.

To the north of the stand is a small concession stand with a shed roof. Rectangular in plan the building has a hip roof sheathed in asphalt shingles.

To the rear of the Ryan School are baseball fields at **145 Pleasant Street**.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

The fourth high school in Tewksbury was the built in 1935. Known as the Tewksbury Center School, It is occupied by the Business and Administration offices of the Tewksbury School Department and the Town's preschool program. It originally served as the high school until the Tewksbury Memorial High School was built to the west on Pleasant Street in 1959. The Center School was built under the National Recovery Act for \$80,000. The land was purchased for \$5000. The 1935 building was designed in 1934 by Miller and Beal architects. Miller and Beal Architects were locate din Portland, ME. They designed the St Peter and Paul Basilica in Lewiston, ME; the Marion Street School (1944) a Federal Works Agency funded building in South Portland, ME; and Maine State Office Building (1948).

Tewksbury Stadium was dedicated in 1938. The stadium was a Works Progress Administration project. Construction began in 1936 with the clearing and grading of the field. The first game in the new stadium was a football game between Tewksbury High and Dracut High. In addition to athletic events the stadium was also used for high school graduations. The stadium is now known as Doucette Stadium.

The 70'x25' field house was originally one-story and contained the heating plant, storage tanks, two sets of dressing rooms equipped with lockers, large gang showers, lavatories, benches and rubbing tables. The football stand was built with a press box and seating capacity of 918 persons in four sections of eight rows. All the seats were numbered. At either end of the stand were restroom and flag poles. Also included in the construction of the stadium was a baseball field, 250-person baseball stand, concrete dugouts, and paved drive used for track events. The baseball stand and dugouts were removed in the second half of the 20th century. The field house was expanded c2000 and renamed James E Brooks Field House. The drive leading from the Ryan School to the fieldhouse was named in honor of Tewksbury Redmen football Coach Robert (Bob) Aylward, an assistant principle of Tewksbury Memorial High School and school athletic director for 27 years.

The **John F Ryan Elementary School** was constructed in 1998-9. The school was designed by Architectural Resources of Cambridge.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- U.S. Census Records. 1790-1930.
- Directories. 1896-97, 1898-99, 1900-01, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1915-16, 1919, 1927, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1937-38 , 1940-41, 1942-1943, 1949 [Ancestry], 1953, 1955, 1961, and 1967.
- Map of the Town of Tewksbury 1852. Henry F Walling. Boston, MA.
- 1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
- Altas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co.
- List of Residents by Streets, Ages 17 years and over, In the Town of Tewksbury Mass. As prepared by the Board of Registrars (various years 1965-)
- Valuations of the Real and Personal Estate of the Town of Tewksbury.
- North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.

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_____. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.
 Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.

Form A Data Sheet
 Tewksbury Center School & Stadium
 Tewksbury, MA

	MHC No.	Assess. No.	Resource	Street Address	Date
1	XXX	47 40	Tewksbury Center School	139 Pleasant Street	1935
2	XXX	47 40	Tewksbury Stadium	135-139 Pleasant Street	1938
3	XXX	47 40	James E Brooks Field House	135-139 Pleasant Street	1938/2000
4	XXX	47 40	Tewksbury Stadium Ticket Stand	135-139 Pleasant Street	1938
5	XXX	47 40	Tewksbury Stadium Entrance Gate	135-139 Pleasant Street	1938
6	XXX	47 40	Garage	135-139 Pleasant Street	20 th cen
7	XXX	47 40	Concessions Stand East	135-139 Pleasant Street	20 th cen
8	XXX	47 40	Concessions Stand West	135-139 Pleasant Street	20 th cen
9	XXX	47 40	John F Ryan Elementary School	135 Pleasant Street	1998-9



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View of the 1938 Field House with contemporary second floor addition.



View of the 1938 football stand and press box.

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View of metal stands and concessions building on the north side of the field.



Aerial Image of Tewksbury Stadium during a football game.