

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	FAI.133
Historic Name:	Fairhaven High School
Common Name:	Castle on the Hill
Address:	12 Huttleston Ave NE corner of North Main St
City/Town:	Fairhaven
Village/Neighborhood:	Fairhaven
Local No:	12-236
Year Constructed:	1906
Architect(s):	Brigham, Charles A.; Flansburgh, Earl R. and Assoc.; Guastavino; Tallman, William B.
Architectural Style(s):	English Revival
Use(s):	Public School
Significance:	Architecture; Art; Community Planning; Education
Area(s):	FAI.C: Fairhaven High School and Academy
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (06/26/1995); Preservation Restriction (04/17/2012)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Copper; Slate Wall: Brick; Copper; Glass; Granite; Limestone; Stone, Cut Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, November 9, 2018 at 2:13: PM

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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

NR 6/26/1995, PR 4/17/2012

Town/City: Fairhaven

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 12 Huttleston Avenue

Historic Name: Fairhaven High School

Uses: Present: High School

Original: High School

Date of Construction: 1906

Source: *Fairhaven Star*, 1906

Style/Form: English Revival

Architect/Builder: Charles A. Brigham

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Granite, limestone, brick

Roof: Slate, copper

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Junior High School addition, 1933

Addition, 1996

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: Less than one acre

Setting: Prominently sited on the Fairhaven side of the Route 6/Acushnet River bridge – first landmark seen as one enters town

Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Menders, Torrey & Spencer, Inc.

Date (*month / year*): August 2012

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

FAIRHAVEN

12 HUTTLESTON AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

C

FAI.133

 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.

Excerpted from the National Register Nomination:

The Fairhaven High School is a monumental masonry building. H-shaped in plan with a central rear wing, the school is two full stories above a basement with a third story and attics under the roof. The basement and first-floor walls are of granite from Fairhaven's Fort Phoenix ledge, laid up in rock-faced random ashlar. Belt courses, window surrounds, and door surrounds are of smooth-faced Indiana limestone. The walls of the second floor and the gable fields are of hard-pressed rosy-colored "Darlington" brick from the Midwest. The roof is gray-green slate with terne-coated copper flashing. Some windows are leaded glass while others are heavy plate. Use is also made of stained glass.

Architect Charles Brigham chose to work in a vocabulary based on English building of the early 17th century Elizabethan period. During that period a Tudor-Gothic tradition of building had become the medium for new arrangements of plan and detail into which foreign influences, especially that of Flanders, were incorporated. The picturesque roofline, spiked by ogee-sided gables with iron finials; the symmetry of a central block flanked by lateral wings; the strong horizontals of the belt courses; and the limestone-mullioned window bands all echo Elizabethan-period English building.

The central block of the High School's facade (south) has a tall hipped roof surmounted by a Baroque cupola containing a four-sided clock and a belfry. The central facade gable extends from the forward slope of the hipped roof, its facade in plane with the rest of the center block, and articulated by pairs of pilasters that rise between the belt courses at each floor to terminate in finials that flank the gable. This center gable is further enriched by a mullioned oriel window at second story level, with three tiers of mullioned windows diminishing in width from 6 to 2 openings toward the top. Extended entrance porches of rock-faced granite ashlar crowned by carved limestone parapets flank a balustraded terrace that extends the width of the center block.

Lateral wings flank the center block of the Fairhaven High School. Their narrow south ends are crowned by ogee-sided gables that echo the shape of the central feature. Each of these gables has an elaborately detailed window arrangement articulated by pilasters that rise from the cornice level belt course. The third-floor tiers of four windows are surmounted by a pair of nearly square windows with decorative swagged stonework above them. The long sides of the lateral wings have heavily ornamented entry porches with balustraded terraces above, mullioned window bands, stone belt courses, and, at the steeply pitched roof slope, a symmetrical arrangement of five gabled dormers.

There is much use of carved stone ornament on the exterior of the High School, such as symbolic figures, grotesque and historic-period heads above pilasters, and much Flemish inspired decoration including foliage, fruits, and strapwork. The east and west elevations are nearly identical and are typically much simpler than the facade. They are both organized around a central, two-story, three-sided bay which rises from a basement level porch. This is flanked at the first story by four single windows (on the east elevation the northern wall is blank) and at the second story by two triple windows. Five ornate gabled dormers pierce the roof.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

FAIRHAVEN

12 HUTTLESTON AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

C	FAI.133
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The rear (north) elevation consists of a central block flanked by projecting wings, all with ogee gables. The wings contain two paired windows at the first story, a bank of five windows at the second story, and a two tiered bank in the gable. The central block, which contains a four tier bank of windows in its gable, is mostly obscured by a one story wing which terminates in an octagonal chamber (the original gymnasium).

In addition to its blend of building materials and wealth of exterior ornamental detail, the school features rich interior detail, handsome stained glass windows and several fine examples of Guastavino tile vaulting, the innovative timbrel vaulting system introduced to America in the late 19th century by Spanish architect, Rafael Guastavino.

A two-story addition by William B. Tallman, opened in 1933 to house the junior high school, was torn down to make way for a large postmodern addition by Flansburgh and Associates. Completed in 1996, the Flansburgh addition connects by a corridor to the original structure at its east elevation.

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.

Fairhaven's historic high school, known as the "Castle on the Hill," is one of the most strikingly ornate secondary public schools in America. It was a gift to the town from native son and Standard Oil magnate Henry Huttleston Rogers, who in addition to donating the Town Hall, Millicent Library, Unitarian Memorial Church, Rogers School, and Masonic lodge, paved the town's streets and installed its water works system. When the school opened on September 10, 1906, it was considered state-of-the-art and boasted more amenities and educational equipment than any other secondary school or college in the country. Architectural historian David J. Russo states that with its marble floors, oak paneling, stained glass windows, and carved wooden gargoyles, the "interior quickly reveals how far Americans have traveled from the educational ideal once embodied in 'the little red schoolhouse'." The building had an indoor track and the country's first indoor basketball court, produced its own gas, and generated electricity from a steam engine-driven generator. A local history states that Rogers drove an aggressive construction schedule in order to complete the building by the 50th anniversary of his own graduation from Fairhaven High School.

Rogers selected the Boston architect Charles Brigham (1841-1925) for the high school and five other buildings he commissioned in Fairhaven, including the library, town hall, Unitarian Church, the Tabitha Inn and his family residence. Brigham designed ten buildings in Fairhaven, executing the later ones in conjunction with his partners Charles Covey and Henry K. Bisbee. Spanning a period from 1881 to 1915, the structures reflect a diversity of style ranging from Richardsonian Romanesque to Colonial, Gothic and English Revival and lend a marvelous eccentricity to the town center. Russo claims that Fairhaven has more public buildings of architectural significance designed by a single firm than any other city or town in New England.

Like many of his 19th century peers, Charles Brigham received no formal training in architecture. After serving as draftsman, first to Calvin Ryder and then to Gridley J. F. Bryant and Arthur D. Gilman, in 1866 he joined with English-educated John Hubbard Sturgis in a partnership that lasted 20 years. With Sturgis, Brigham designed numerous fashionable homes in Boston's Back Bay and Newport, Rhode Island, the original Museum of Fine Arts (1876) at Copley Square, and the Church of the Advent (1886) in Beacon Hill. Working alone after the death of Sturgis, Brigham designed the lavish Burrage House (1899) in the Back Bay, Boston's only French Chateausque building, and the additions to the Massachusetts State House.

Brigham organized the firm of Brigham, Coveney & Bisbee in 1906. With Coveney, he designed a cathedral-size Byzantine/Renaissance Revival style extension to the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston at the same time that he was working on the English Renaissance-inspired Fairhaven High School.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B, prepared by Ellen Fletcher Rosebrook, September 1978.

United States Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, prepared by Candace Jenkins(MHC) and Ellen Rosebrook, September 1980.

Fairhaven High School Building Conditions Survey by Menders, Torrey & Spencer, Inc., May 2011.

Christian Science Center Complex, Boston Landmarks Commission Study Report, as amended January 25, 2011.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

FAIRHAVEN

12 HUTTLESTON AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

C	FAI.133
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View of the Gymnasium (now the Library)



View of the 1996 Addition

FORM B - BUILDING

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

PR 4/17/12 FAI. 133 NR PR 5/7/81
6/26/95 FH/2014 exs - 5/7/94

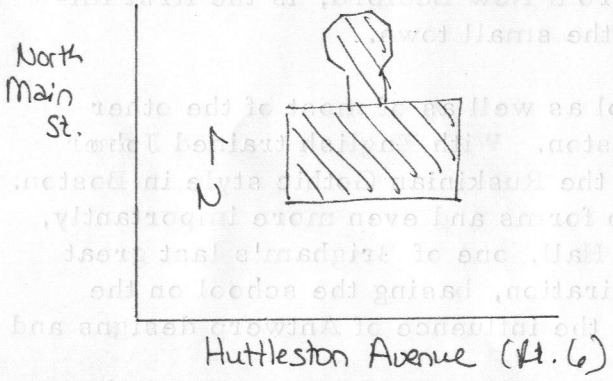
In Area no. C	Form no. 133
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Pl - Fairhaven



Town Fairhaven
Address Huttleston Ave., n.e. corner N. Main St.
Name Fairhaven High School
Present use educational
Present owner Town of Fairhaven
Description: Monumental masonry bldg., 2 stories above basement w/ another story under roof.
Date 1905-06
Source Dias, F'hun. Star
Style Elizabethan-period English ER
Architect Charles Brigham

in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric rock-faced granite, pressed brick, limestone
Outbuildings (describe) Junior High - 1933
Other features H-shaped plan, hipped-roof center block has cupola, center block and wings have Flemish ogee-sided gables, 2 gabled entry porches.
Altered addition Date 1933
Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre X
Approximate frontage ca. 800'

Approximate distance of building from street at 60'

6. Recorded by Ellen Fletcher Rosebrock

Organization The Preservation Partnership

Date September 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Town of Fairhaven

Original use High School

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates none

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This monumental brick structure occupies a key Fairhaven site; it represents one of the last works of an important Massachusetts architect, and as one of the Rogers Gift buildings, it has a special historical and aesthetic significance for Fairhaven.

The prevailing character of Fairhaven is established by its center-section streets which are lined with handsome but small frame houses of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Against this delicate fabric, the monumental structures commissioned for the town by Henry Huttleston Rogers (a Fairhaven native who prospered as a vice-president of Standard Oil) stand out with massive presence and dignity. The High School, just on the Fairhaven side of the bridge from New Bedford, is the first impressive sight the arriving traveller receives of the small town.

Charles Brigham, the architect of the High School as well as of most of the other Rogers gift buildings, was well established in Boston. With English trained John Sturgis, Brigham had been active in establishing the Ruskinian Gothic style in Boston. Later, on his own, he worked with Richardsonian forms and even more importantly, with those of the Classical Revival. In the Town Hall, one of Brigham's last great buildings, he returns to English building for inspiration, basing the school on the early 17th century English structures built under the influence of Antwerp designs and publications.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Am. Arch. & Bldg News. 90 (2):1613, November 24, 1906

Dias, Earl J. Fairhaven High School. Fairhaven, 1952

---- Henry Huttleston Rogers. Fairhaven, 1974