

Newington High School

Founded 1934

Newington High School

Newington High School received State approval to issue high school diplomas and was founded in 1934. The school began for grade 10 students in a portable classroom placed beside the junior high school while an addition to the junior high school was constructed to house students in grades 10-12. The junior high school had just been constructed only a few years earlier in 1928. Prior to that, junior high school students in grades 7-9 attended Center District School at 66 Cedar Street, and those who wished to further their education went on to complete their senior high school years at New Britain High School.



Superintendent Charles M. Larcomb - Front Left
Principal Charles A. Bowes - Front Center
E. Joyce Jamer - Assistant Principal - Second Row Right

Mr. Bowes began his employment with Newington Schools in 1925 as a teaching principal of Center School until becoming principal of the new Junior High School at 19 Mill Street, and led Newington Senior High School until his death on February 27, 1966. Joseph Doran, Assistant Principal and Mr. Bowes were instrumental in adopting the house system. Mr. Leon Magee and Mr. Wesley Stoddard were teachers who also passed away prior to the opening of the new high school and were memorialized by the dedication of the Magee and Stoddard houses in the new school. The Charles A. Bowes Auditorium was dedicated to Mr. Bowes for serving the district for 40 years.

The following pages were written by Mr. Bowes in 1963 as he planned for the third high school facility, now located at 605 Willard Avenue. Mr. Bowes describes the history of the schools founding through the planning for the newly adopted house system currently still used at Newington High School.

The Founding of Newington High School

Thirty Years in Retrospect

Written by Charles A. Bowes

In 1933, the school system in Newington operated on a six-three basis: six years of elementary school and three years of junior high. Grades 10, 11, and 12 attended school in New Britain. The transition for pupils from a small suburban junior high school to a city, and a city high school, created a host of problems. Despite the fact that we were in a depression, the per pupil cost of \$300, plus cost of transportation and books, ran the per capita cost per pupil considerably higher than similar cost in their own junior high school. The drop-out rate of pupils from the senior high was also large.



In an economic move, as well as to increase the holding power of the school on pupils, it was decided that if the portable structure, then standing next to the old Center school, could be dismantled and annexed to the south side of the junior high school on Mill Street, the tenth graders could get their secondary education in Newington. This was done and proved satisfactory both in saving money and in providing more individual attention to the pupil's needs than they were able to get in New Britain.

Newington High School was founded in 1934, with students attending classes in a portable classroom seen at the far end of the picture to the left while the school was being constructed. The Eleven Room Addition to the Junior High School seen here was Completed February 5, 1937

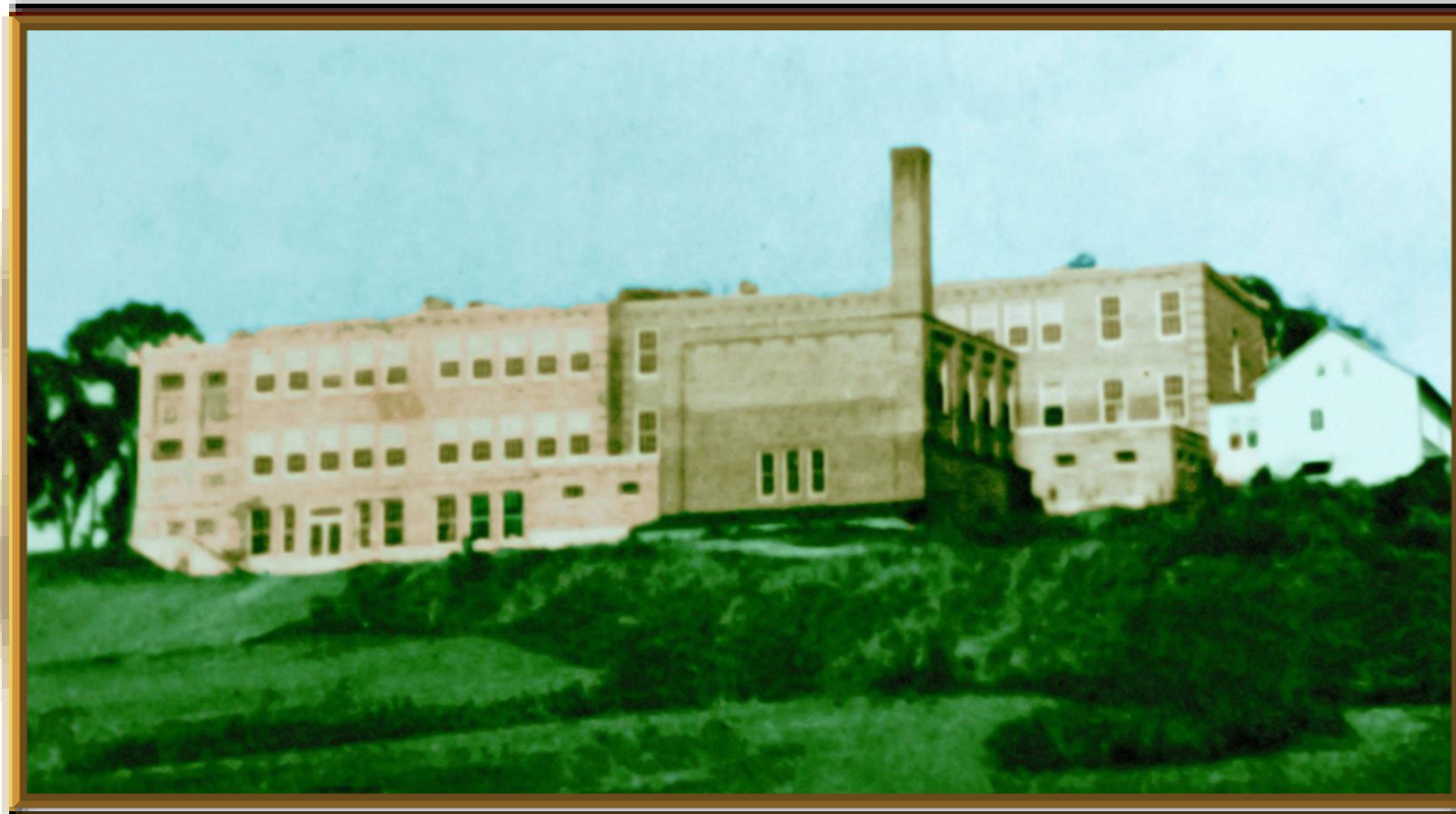
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The Founding of Newington High School

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A decision was then made to apply to the government for assistance under the Work's Project program for funds to enlarge the junior high so that grades eleven and twelve could be incorporated giving Newington a 6-3-3 program: six of elementary, three of junior high, and three of senior high. As the additional facilities were made available, a grade at a time was added and the first senior high school class was graduated in 1938.



Newington High School was founded in 1934, with students attending classes in a portable classroom seen at the far right of the picture to the left while the school was being constructed. The Eleven Room Addition (left) to the Junior High School seen here was Completed February 5, 1937

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Newington High School

Thirty Years in Retrospect

Written by Charles A. Bowes

With the New Deal and its social legislation and the gathering of war clouds in Europe, the economy in the greater Hartford area became accelerated. Building of homes once again was on the move and new families came in. With war, the entire area was affected by the pinch in housing. With a cessation of hostilities, Newington with its many acres of undeveloped land became a target for home building and real estate operators. School facilities became taxed in all areas. With greater acceleration in the elementary schools, the need for more adequate housing in this area and also in the high school became evident, and plans for a new secondary and elementary buildings were put to the voters in a package deal. Facilities that were deemed necessary at this time in both areas were deleted only to be replaced out of necessity five years later at considerably increased costs. By 1961 the space requirements in the new senior high completed in 1956 were inadequate. The old junior-senior high, vacated when the Martin Kellogg Junior High School was opened, was annexed to the senior high and acted as a stop gap until 1961, with a rated student capacity of 823 for both buildings. In 1962-1963, 880 are housed in these areas and by 1963-1964, an attempt was made to try to house 950 pupils.



131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut



Newington High School

Thirty Years in Retrospect

Written by Charles A. Bowes

When the facilities for grades 10, 11, and 12 were planned in the late forties, the planners hardly foresaw that in less than a decade the facilities at Mill and Cedar Streets would be totally inadequate for either the junior or senior high school population. Despite our additional junior high school, the same problem of housing grades seven through twelve is still the dilemma facing the people of Newington and their chosen representatives, the Board of Education.

Taking into consideration the revised figures on the ultimate maximum population of Newington, both adult and pupil, the Board revised their estimation on the size of a senior high school to 1,600. The professional staff at the high school was requested to present the results of its study of the program needs for such a school to the Board of Education at its June meeting.



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Newington High School

New Organizational Structure

Written by Charles A. Bowes

During the past few years, the high school staff has been engaged in a study of plans to take care of the increased senior high school population. The first approach was to consider a plan to increase the facilities of the present building to 1050. Department heads with their colleagues presented reports as to the educational program and space needs. *Educational Facilities Laboratories of New York* were contacted for assistance in planning. Booklets of profiles of significant schools were sent to us and passed out to teachers and to members of the building committee of the Board of Education as reference material.

The next proposal presented by the Board of Education was to build a senior high school of 2,000. This was later reduced to 1600 due to a restudy by the Newington Town Plan Commission of the town's potential population growth. The staff, in addition to studying profiles of significant schools, considered the organization for a new high school. Two questions had to be resolved:

(1) Should this planning follow the idea of a traditional high school, or (2) Should a new type of school be considered.

The entire faculty visited the new Torrington Senior High School which follows a traditional format. A representative group visited the Andrew Ward School in Fairfield which follows the house plan. A reprint of the Genealogy of the House Plan from the November 1962 issue of Educational Executive's Overview was reviewed prior to the trip to Fairfield. The respective approaches were fully discussed at a high school staff meeting and the following motion made, seconded and adopted, "that the organization to be incorporated in planning for the senior high school in Newington shall be the House Plan adapted to the needs of Newington." There was also agreement that each house should be large enough in student enrollment to afford greater flexibility in course offerings within the house.



Newington High School

New Organizational Structure

Written by Charles A. Bowes

Working within the thinking of some individuals that Newington will mature as a community when it reaches a population of 34,000, a reasonable projection for a three-year senior high was assumed to be a 1,600 pupil population. With this in mind, two houses of 800 pupils each are suggested as providing the most efficient plan of operation for Newington. Each division should possess its own identity. This does not infer separate buildings but rather geographical separation. To provide workable enrollments in each house, it is suggested that at first the school will house grades 9-12. As enrollments increase and experience is gained, a return to the 6-3-3 system could be made if deemed advisable. Existing building facilities to house school population within the community is always a deciding factor in such issues.

The present thinking (1963) of the high school administration is that the format of space relationship for the house should be in the form of two L's extending out from the area containing space common to both for science, guidance, general office, etc. The L shaped structures would house the units for instruction in English, social studies, mathematics and language. In most school systems, availability of building space influences determination of whether the grade organization within a community shall be 6, 3, 3 or 6, 2, 4 or 5, 3, 4. A two storied building for the academic structures would give space areas for the continued inclusion of a ninth grade after 1972 if experience showed this was desirable. This might alter the unit division of houses as to the number of pupils in each house by the inclusion of another house. With increasing cost, of post-secondary education, some consideration should be given to planning for space area for grades 13 and 14. Many communities in Connecticut are already inaugurating the junior college program in connection with their school system. Planning for the high school should have tentative projections to include this area.

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL







Newington High School

Board of Education Site Committee Report - 1962

In 1962, the Board of Education evaluated several sites as possible options for a new senior high school. Several other sites were proposed from a list of available options recommended by the Site Committee. The properties considered were:

1. Property located on the Easterly side at Main Street near the intersection of New Britain Avenue and Main Street. This property is owned by one Oscar Aron, contains 56.86 acres, and will hereinafter be referred to as the **Aron property**.
2. The Eddy property located on the Westerly side of Willard Avenue approximately opposite Mill Street. This property contains 43.6 sores and will be hereinafter referred to as the **Eddy property**.
3. Property located on the Northerly side of Cedar Street, Westerly of Willard Avenue. This property is owned by Clara N. Eddy and will be referred to as the **Eddy North property** and contains 94 acres.
4. Property located on the Northerly side of New Britain Avenue at the intersection of New Britain Avenue and Maple Hill Avenue. This consists of two Contiguous parcels totaling approximately 44 acres and will hereinafter referred to as the **New Britain - Maple Hill property**.
5. Property located on the Easterly side of Main Street just northerly of Northwood Road and southerly of Cheney Manufacturing Company. This property contains 21 acres, and will be hereinafter referred to as the **Northwood - Cheney property**.
6. Property located on the Northerly side of East Cedar Street, owned by the Newington Crippled Children's Hospital, containing 24 ½ acres. This property will hereinafter be referred to as the **Hospital property**.
7. Two parcels of land located on Church Street, both owned by Emma Edman, one on the Westerly side containing 97.6 acres and the other on the Easterly side containing 29 acres, hereinafter referred to as the **Edman properties**.
8. Property on the Easterly side of Church Street owned by A. J. Richardson, containing 31 acres, and being hereinafter referred to as the **Richardson Property**.

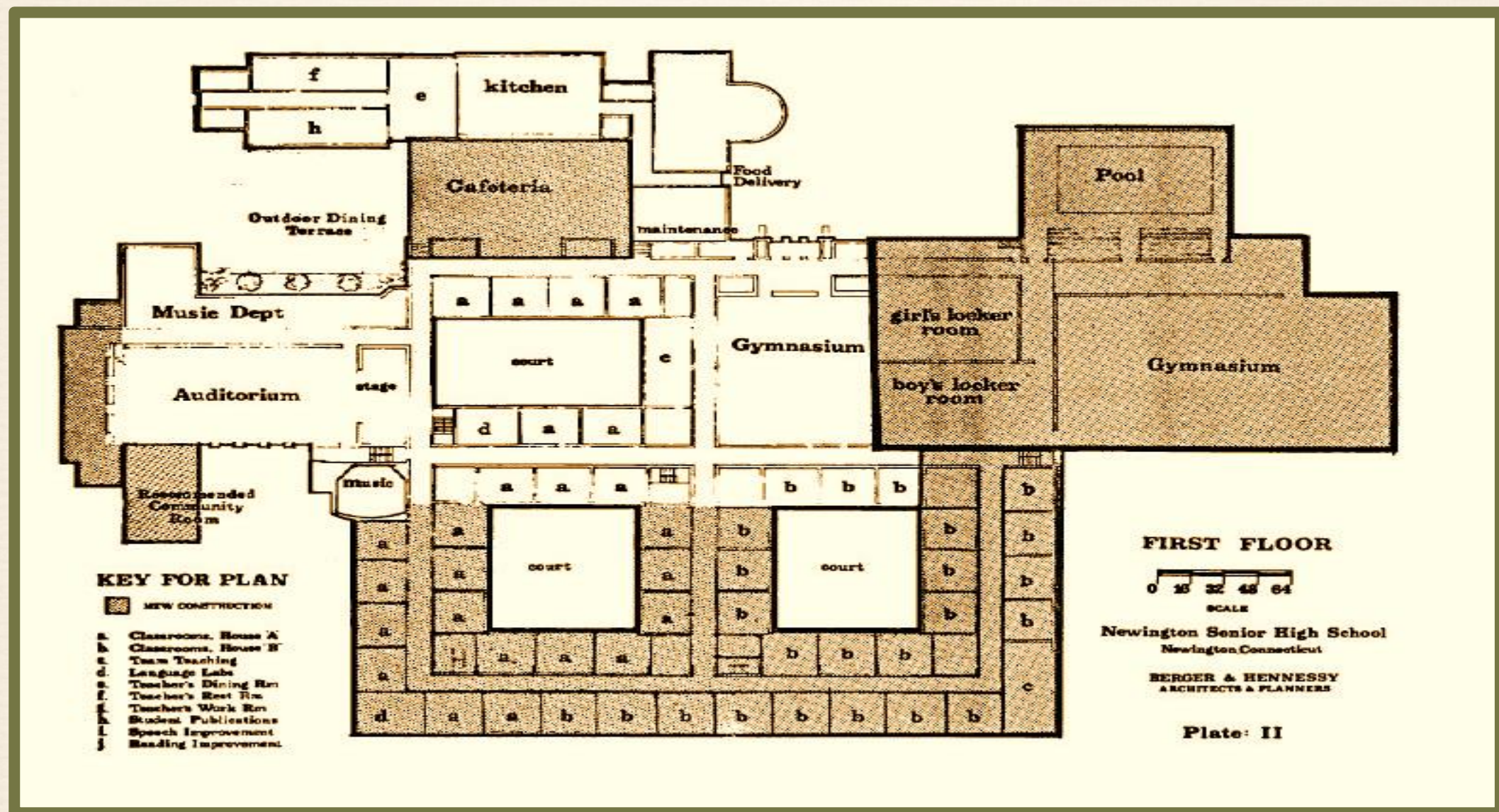


131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut



Newington High School

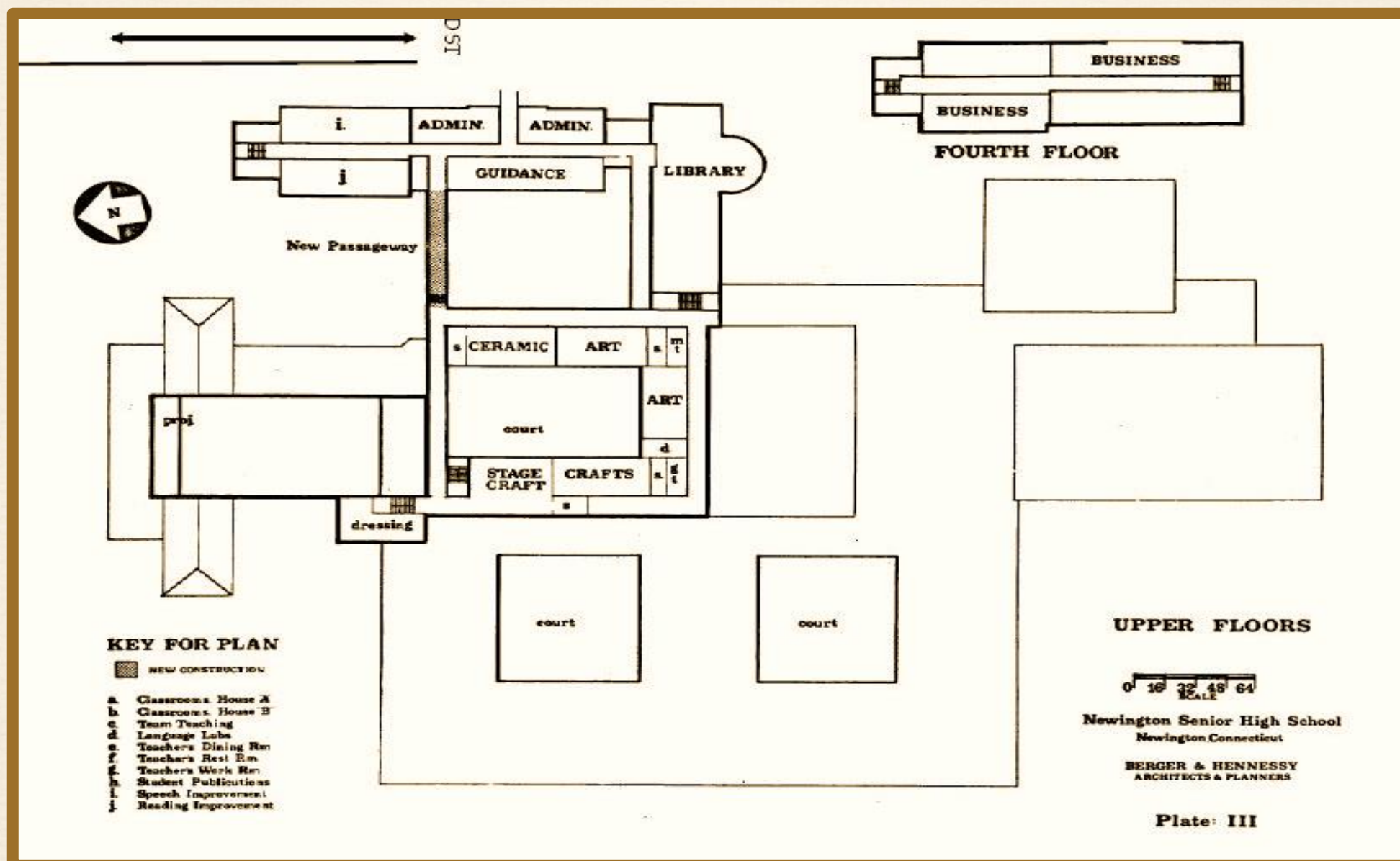
Plans were drawn to renovate and expand the high school at Cedar and Mills Streets. The plans would call for taking at least five more homes by eminent domain and filling in one third of Mill Pond to accommodate the needs of the high school. The plans for the renovation are included below.





Newington High School

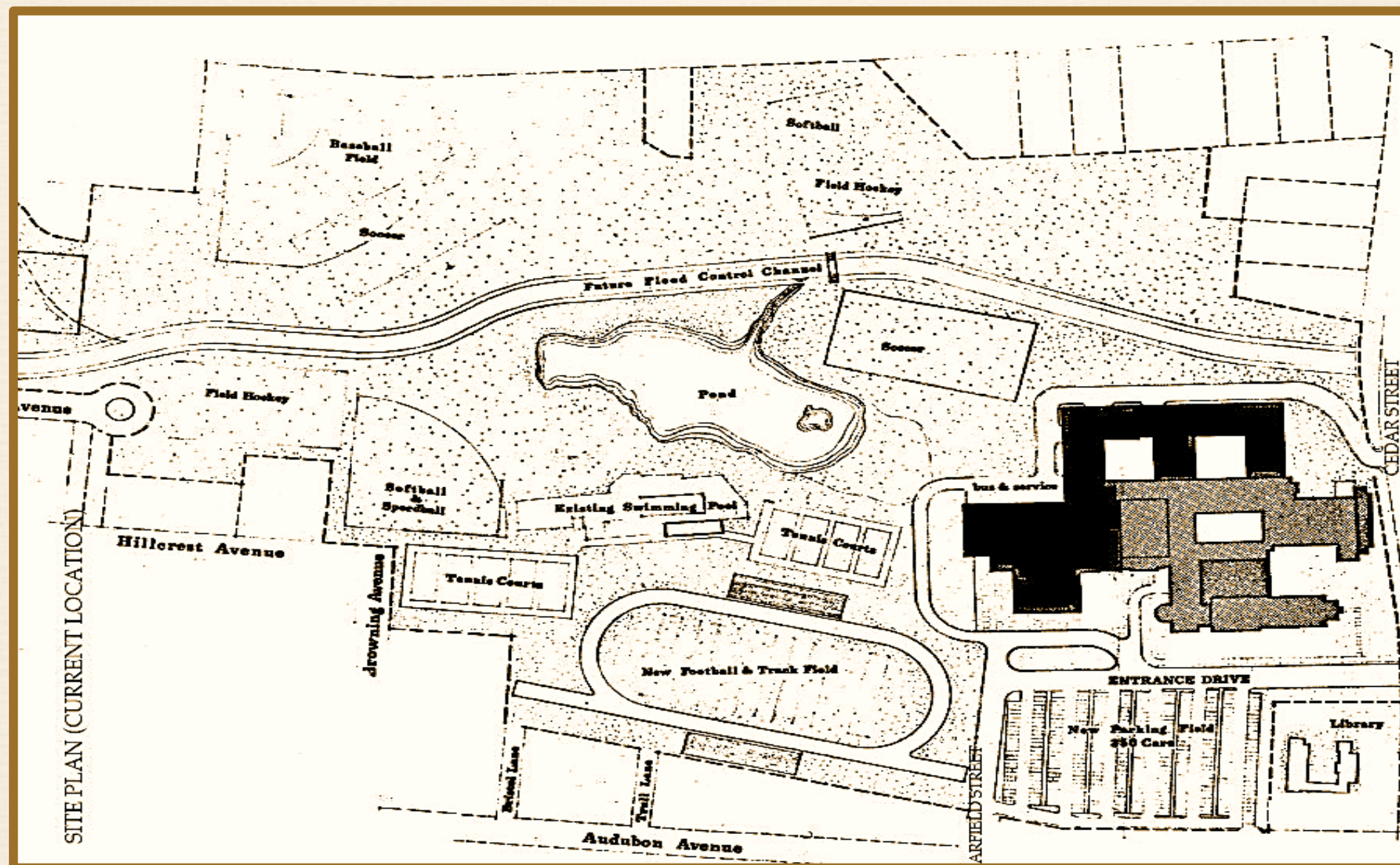
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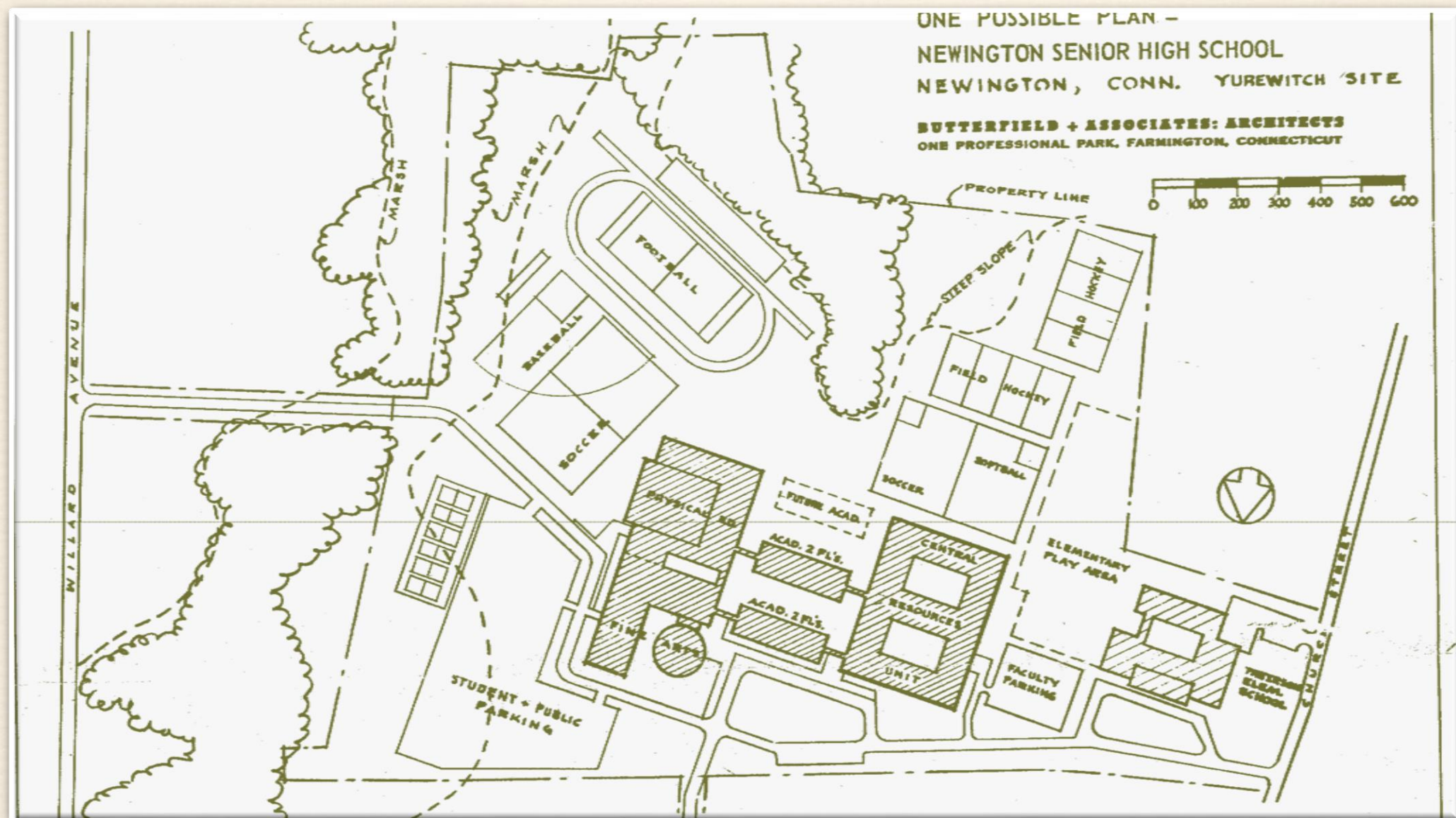


131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut



Newington High School

On March 5, 1965, the community voted by referendum to build a new senior high school on the Yurewitch Site which had been purchased for the construction of a new junior high school. A new road would be constructed connecting the property with Willard Avenue as shown below.

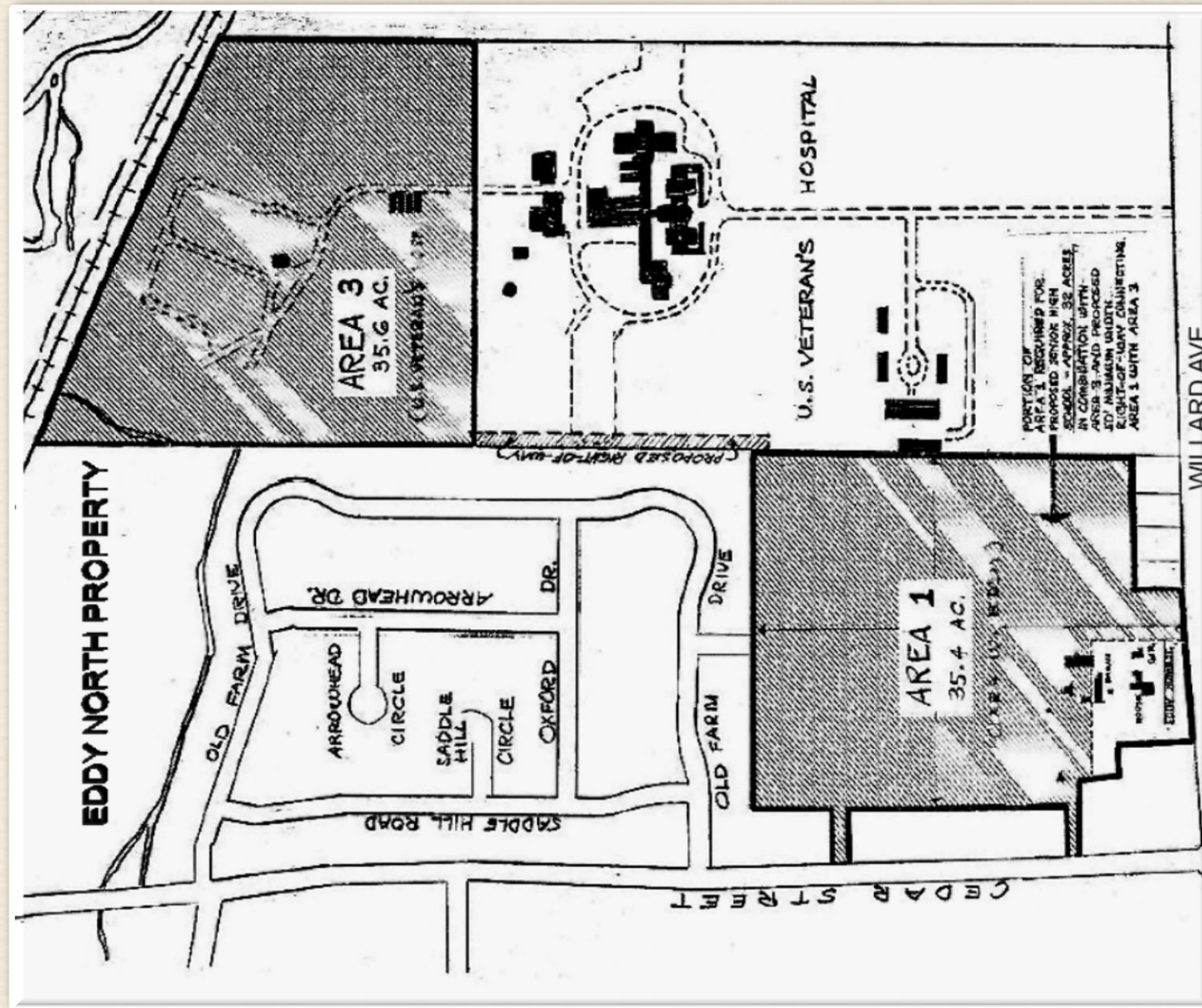


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Newington High School

Eddy North Property

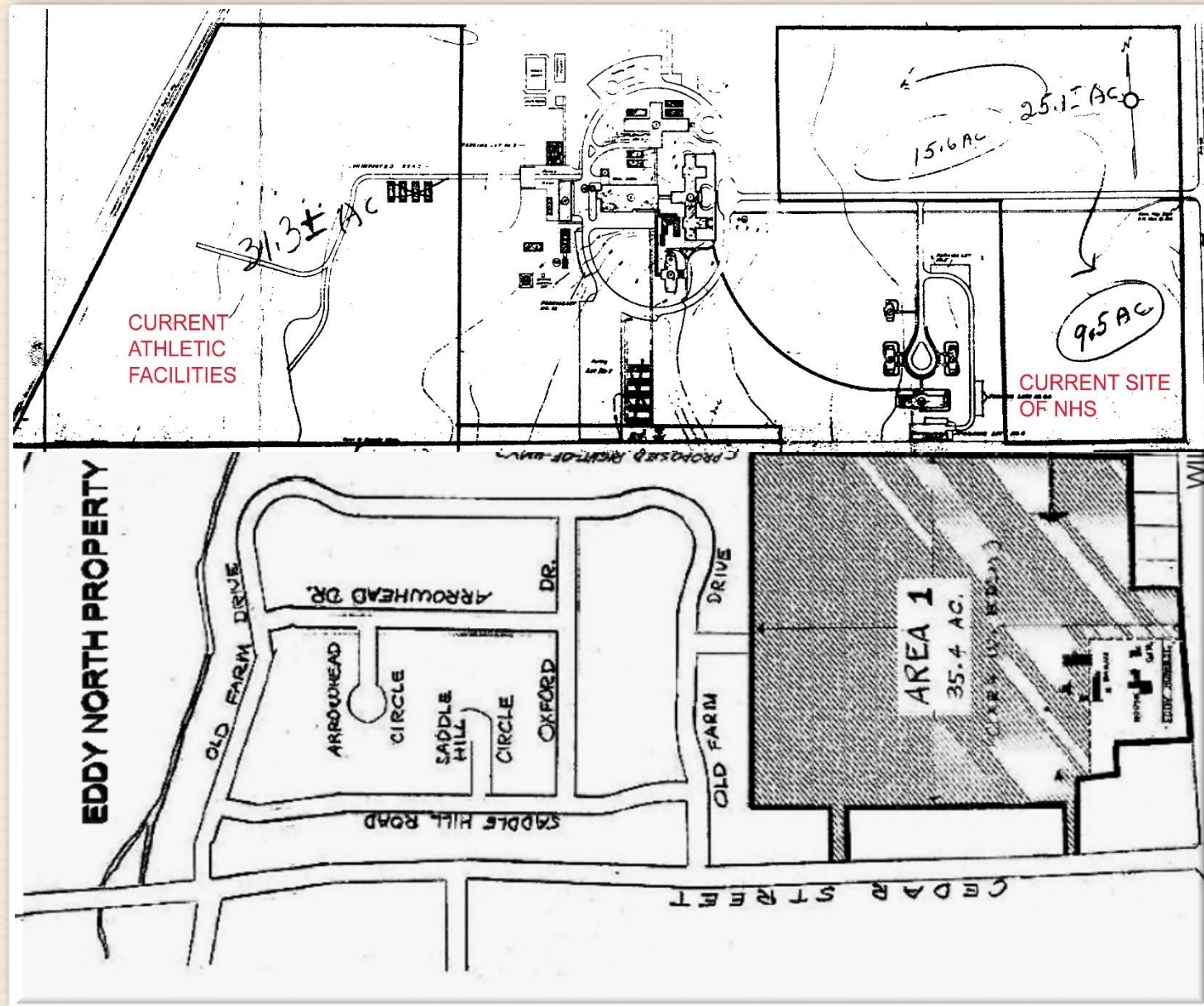


Originally 94 acres with 2 entrances / exits to Cedar Street and 1 entrance / exit on Willard Avenue. When the Veterans Administration declared the property where the high school currently sits as excess, the town received the property with the understanding that if the property ceased to be used for school purposes, it would revert back to the federal government.



Newington High School

Eddy North Property



Originally 94 acres, the change reduced the size to 56 acres with 2 entrances / exits on Willard Avenue and no access to Cedar Street. The land originally included in this property identified as Area 1 was used by the town for the Park Department Garage and Cemetery.



Newington High School

VA Property

As you can see from this rendering, Newington High School was to look very different than it does. There were 2 academic houses with room for expansion to 3, three courtyards, 2 cafeterias, a large main gym and two auxiliary gyms, a large library in the front of the building. The design included central air conditioning for the entire facility.

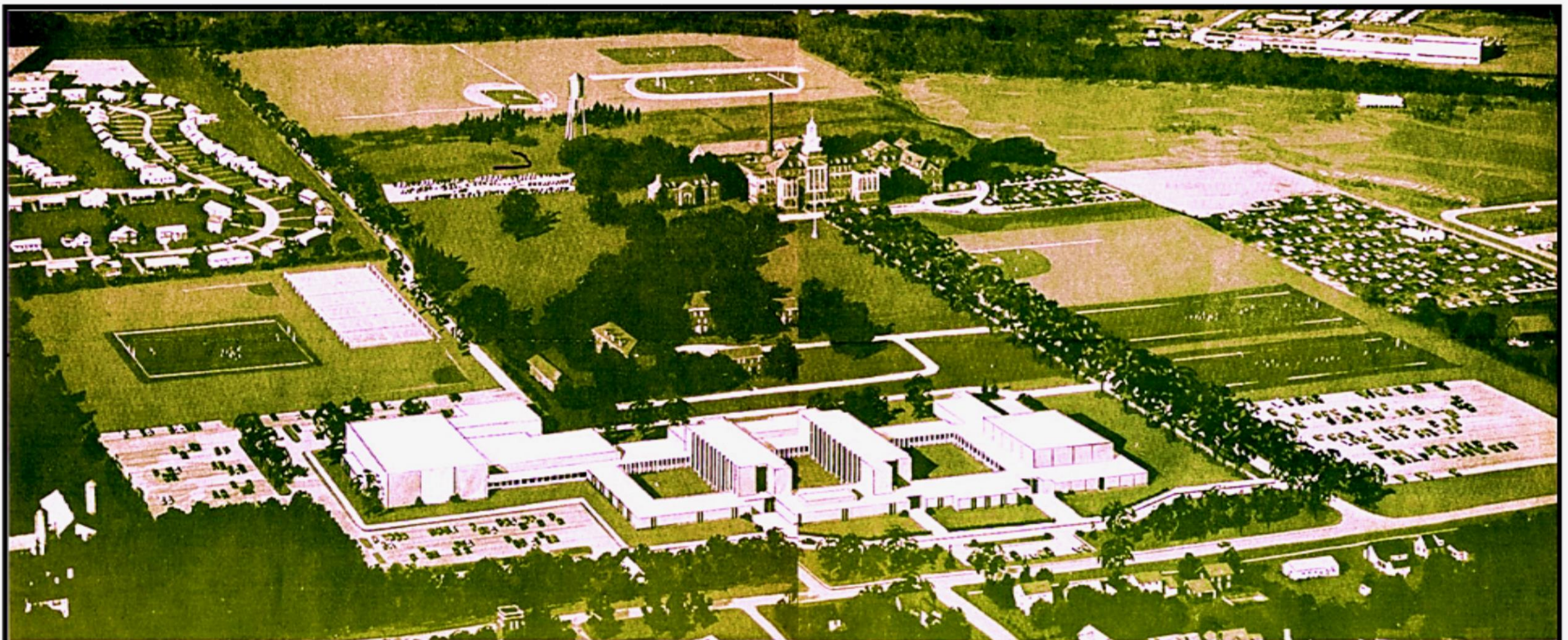


131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut



Newington High School

VA Property



TWO ACADEMIC UNITS each to include:

- 21 Classrooms for English, Social Studies, Languages, Mathematics and Psychology
- 1 Large group classroom with folding partition and platform for team teaching and specialized programs
- 1 Reading and conference room
- 1 Language laboratory
- 1 Teachers' workroom
- 1 Bookroom for 6,000 books
- 2 Teachers' rest rooms

- 3 Business classrooms
- 1 Storage and bookroom
- 1 Office and conference room

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

- 1 Woodworking Shop
- 1 Finishing Room
- 1 Project storing room
- 1 Planning room
- 1 Metal shop
- 1 Electronics shop
- 1 Communication Laboratory, Ham Station

LIBRARY

- 1 Reading room to seat 125 students
- 1 Reference room to seat 65 students
- 1 Shelf space for 20,000 books
- 1 Librarian's office
- 1 Library workroom
- 1 Magazine and storage area
- 1 Library classroom to seat 30 at tables
- 1 Faculty professional room
- 1 Audio Visual Repair room
- 1 Conference room and office
- 1 Instructional Materials workroom
- 1 Dead storage and toilet

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Gymnasium with four folding partitions, bleachers to seat 2100
- Auxiliary Gymnasium with folding partition, no bleacher
- Swimming Pool 75' 1" x 42'
- Swimming Pool Office and Service Room
- Filtration Room
- Field House providing accommodation for spectators and storage of outdoor equipment
- Locker Storage and Shower Area for

DEVELOPMENTAL READING CENTER

- 2 Classrooms plus testing areas
- 1 Teacher planning area

GUIDANCE

- 1 Individual Testing Room
- 1 Guidance Director's Office
- 1 Secretary's Office
- 8 Counseling Offices
- 1 Workroom for Counselors and Secretaries
- 1 Guidance Library and Waiting Room

DRIVER TRAINING

- 1 Classroom for Driver Training Instruction

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

- 1 General office and reception
- 1 Principal's Office, closet and washroom
- 2 Housemaster-Vice-Principal's offices
- 1 Administrative Assistant's Office
- 1 Record Storage room - Vault
- 1 Conference Room
- 1 Supply Room

131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut



Newington High School

Opened March 1971



605 Willard Avenue, Newington, Connecticut



Newington High School

The construction of a new high school had been under consideration by the Town for many years. After 3 prior referendums for bond issues resulted in no progress being made, the voters on March 16, 1967 approved a bond issue in the amount of \$6,500,000 for a new high school. The vote on this referendum was 2985 Yes and 1644 No. Because this referendum was based only on a feasibility study, the Architect then began the preparation of preliminary plans. The preliminary plans were approved by the Council on September 26, 1967 with final plans approved on May 28, 1968. After construction bids were opened it was apparent that more money was necessary. The voters approved a supplementary appropriation of \$1,220,000 on August 27, 1968 by a vote of 2878 to 439. Finally, on September 12, 1968 the contract for the construction was signed with Psaty & Fuhrman, Inc. of New York.

In March of 1971, Newington High School students and faculty were in their new home at 605 Willard Avenue. On October 3, 1971, Newington High School held its formal dedication ceremonies. Concurrent with the dedication of the high school was the dedication of the auditorium to the memory of Charles A. Bowes, first principal of Newington High School. His successor, Mr. Warren R. Bourque, presented Mrs. Ann Bowes a facsimile of the dedication plaque in honor of her husband's forty years of contributions to the improvement of educational opportunities for the youth of Newington.



605 Willard Avenue, Newington, Connecticut

Newington High School

Mr. Charles A. Bowes, Principal

1926 - 1966

Mr. Charles A. Bowes began his career in Newington as a teaching principal in 1926 at the age of 25. He served as Principal of Center District School for two years, Principal of Newington Junior High School when it opened in 1928, and the combined Junior Senior High School when it was added to the Junior High School in 1938. When the 1951 Senior High School addition was complete, the Junior High School remained in the original building with a new principal and Mr. Bowes remained Principal of Newington Senior High School until his death on February 27, 1966.





Newington High School

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP 1926 - Present



Mr. C. Bowes
1926 - 1966



Mr. W. Bourke
1966 - 1976



Mr. H. Sheppard
1976 - 1980



Dr. E. Perlini
1980 - 1990



Mr. P. Hoey
1990 - 2004



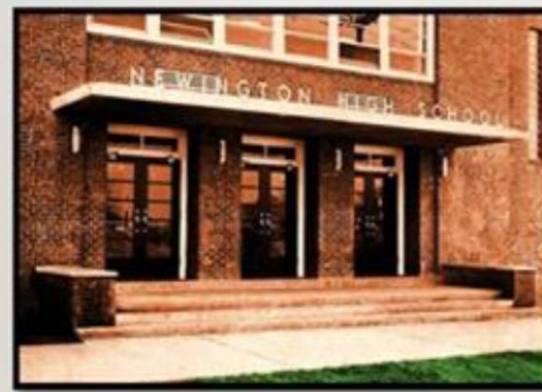
Dr. W. Collins
2004 - 2009

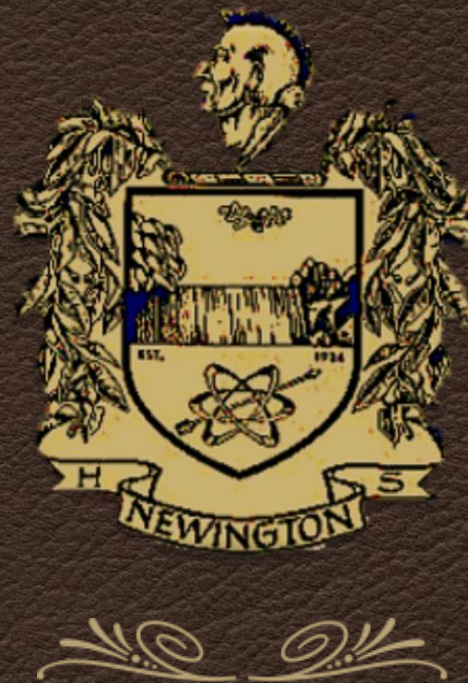


Mr. J. Wenker
2009 - 2017



Ms. T. Tigno
2017 - Present





Newington High School

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