

## Appendix H: Coolidge School Description and History

**Summary:** A brick building of nearly 16,000 gross square feet, on a General Residence zoned 108,000 square foot lot, including the playground. Except for a brief period in the early '80's, Coolidge has been in continuous use as a school facility for 109 years. In later years other organizations have rented space for various purposes. It contains eight large classrooms on two floors, with double stairwells front and back and large amounts of common space. There is a full basement, broken up into mostly small rooms. The boiler is recent. The attic is not insulated and unused.



### **Timeline:**

1906--Originally built as the Bancroft Street School, a flat roofed one story plus basement by James Mullin, grandfather to Ed and Joe Mullin. Cost \$20,482

1909—Second story added with slate shingled hip roof. Cost \$12,000

1932—Renamed the Calvin Coolidge School

1951—Heating system redone

1978—Listed with Massachusetts Historic Commission as historic property

1981—Use as an active elementary school ceased, conversion to admin offices begun

1984—Renovations completed, including window and door replacement, hung ceilings, interior partitions and floor refinishing

2000—1978 listing on the State Inventory of Historic Properties confirmed by an independent consultant, who also noted the property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties. Deemed historic by virtue of design by notable architect Charles Bateman; Classic Revival style; and connection to prominent local family.

2013—Playground redone

2014—School administration relocated to Fowler

2015—School Committee declared building surplus and notified Selectmen of intent to the return the building to the town. This transfer, required per MGL, was approved at The Annual Town Meeting May 2015 (Reference Article XX).



### **Condition:**

The building is structurally sound, but deferred maintenance has created a long list of items which need to be addressed. A 2008 study by an outside firm hired by the School Committee identified \$2M of suggested repairs, none of which have been made. Additional sums would be

required to bring the building up to code. Conversion to other uses might require other costs, e.g., installation of an elevator or a sprinkler system.