

# Historic and Archaeological Resources

This chapter presents an overview of the existing identified historic and archaeological resources on and in the vicinity of Boston College's three campuses: Brighton, Chestnut Hill and Newton. This chapter also includes a description of the impacts of the projects proposed b( osa)-2.c-(A)514.28erofv r aer onle

The Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth includes all buildings, structures, sites, and objects that have been recorded on inventory forms in the Commonwealth, not all of which have received an official designation or have been officially evaluated for their significance. The State Register of Historic Places was established in 1982 as a comprehensive listing of buildings, objects, structures, and sites that have received local, state or national designations based on their historical, architectural, or archaeological significance. All properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are automatically entered in to the State Register of Historic Places.

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## Brighton Campus

The Boston College Brighton Campus contains and is adjacent to a number of previously recorded historic districts, areas, and individual properties as shown in Figure 8-1 and listed below:

- y Chancery-St. John's Seminary Complex (BOS.JW) - as noted below in more detail, the Seminary Complex was determined by the MHC (December 2003) to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a "potential historic district" that contains a number of contributi



Boston College acquired 43 acres (of the total 65 acres) of the Seminary Complex in 2004 and filed an amendment to the previous Boston College IMP with the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) in July 2006. The amendment included Boston College's plans for St. William's Hall, the Cardinal's Residence, the Tribunal Building, and the Gymnasium, including planned renovations to each building except the Gymnasium. The MHC commented on the proposed amendment on August 4, 2006 indicating that the three buildings proposed for renovation (St. William's Hall, the Cardinal's Residence, and the Tribunal Building) are historically and architecturally significant and appear to meet the Criteria of Eligibility

#BOS.8150) is a simple gable front Italiana



profile that blends in with the Chancery-St. John's Seminary Complex landscape and does not detract from the prominence of the other buildings on campus.

### Foster Street Residences

The three residences at 188, 192, and 196 Foster Street are proposed to be removed and replaced by a 75-bed student residence to be used by Jesuit faculty and graduate students in Weston Jesuit School of Theology. As noted above, all three structures have been individually inventoried by the MHC and are contributing elements to the Foster Street Area. Demolition of the three structures is subject to the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) demolition delay ordinance. Their demolition may be delayed up to 90 days following BLC comment on their demolition if the BLC requests preservation of the properties or mitigation of demolition.

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## Chestnut Hill Campus

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### Cultural Resources

Similar to the Brighton Campus, the Chestnut Hill Campus contains individual properties as shown on Figure 8-1 and is adjacent to a number of previously recorded historic districts and areas. The Chestnut Hill Campus is recorded on an Area Form (MHC #NWT.DI) and contains five inventoried structures on the Middle Campus:

- y Gasson Hall (NWT.5397)
- y St. Mary's Hall (NWT.5398)
- y Bapst/Burns Library (NWT.5399)
- y Devlin Hall (NWT.5400)
- y Fulton Hall (NWT.5401)

Review of MHC's inventory indicates that the following inventoried areas and historic districts are located immediately adjacent to the Chestnut Hill campus:

- y Chestnut Hill Reservoir and Pumping Stations Complex (BOS.LX), which also includes the Cochituate and Sudbury Aqueduct Linear Districts (BOS.LY and BOS.SK). Both the Chestnut Hill Reservoir and the Pumping Stations (BOS.LW) are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir Historic District (CHRHD) (BOS.LX). The CHRHD is a Local Historic District (September 26, 1989), a National Register District (January 18, 1990), and is also included in the National Register Thematic Resource Area of the Metropolitan District Water Commission (September 18, 1990) (BOS.LV).

- y Chestnut Hill Historic District (NWT.O, NWT.AJ, and NWT.EG) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (September 4, 1986 and February 16, 1990) and is a local historic district regulated by the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission. The Chestnut Hill Historic District contains approximately 168 properties and is located immediately south of the Boston College Chestnut Hill Campus. The Chestnut Hill Historic District also contains a number of buildings that are currently owned by the University, including the entire Hammond Triangle area.
- y Upper Chestnut Hill -- Evergreen Area (BOS.JX) consists of 26 contributing elements to the historic district including a number of residential structures and the Evergreen Cemetery. The Upper Chestnut Hill -- Evergreen Area is contiguous to the northeastern portion of the Boston College Chestnut Hill campus as well as the southern portion of the Boston College Brighton Campus.
- y Commonwealth Avenue Historic District (NWT.AB) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district (February 16, 1990) and is included in the Newton NR MRA – 1908-1940 (February 16, 1990). The Commonwealth Avenue Historic District contains 321 properties and is located immediately north and west of the Boston College Chestnut Hill Campus and does not include any resources associated with the MBTA system.
- y Monadnock Road Historic District (NWT.AE) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district (February 16, 1990) and is included in the Newton NR MRA – 1908-1940 (February 16, 1990). It contains 89 properties and is located immediately west of the Boston College Chestnut Hill Campus.
- y Quincy Road – Mayflower – Priscilla Road – Old Colony Road Area (NWT.BA) is an inventoried area immediately west of the Boston College Chestnut Hill Campus and includes a number of properties that are currently owned by the University. The Area Form does not indicate how many properties are included in the Area.
- y There are also a number of individually inventoried properties (not located in areas or historic districts) that are located immediately north and west of the Chestnut Hill Campus.

Unlike the Brighton Campus, the Chestnut Hill Campus was subject to a reconnaissance archaeological and architectural survey in 1994 in conjunction with the previous Boston College IMP. The survey identified areas that were considered to be archaeologically sensitive and, as a result, the MHC requested that they be subject to additional archaeological survey. The western portion of the Middle Campus and the southern portion of the Upper Campus were determined to be moderately sensitive to contain archaeological resources, while the Hammond Triangle section of the Chestnut Hill Campus was determined to be highly sensitive to contain archaeological resources. Subsequent archaeological investigations identified archaeological sites in those locations, but none of the sites were determined eligible for listing in the National Register.



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## New Construction

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### Boston Portion of the Chestnut Hill Campus

Planned construction on the Boston portion of the Chestnut Hill Campus includes the following:

- y An undergraduate residence hall (420 beds), first floor retail (12,000 sf), and underground parking (up to 100 spaces) on the existing site of More Hall which will be demolished. The demolition and construction associated with this IMP project has the potential to impact the Evergreen Cemetery which is located immediately adjacent to the project.

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## Demolition

- y Service Building
- y McElroy Commons. This area is in a portion of the Chestnut Hill Campus that was indicated in 1994 as archaeologically sensitive. Portions of this area were tested during a subsequent intensive survey and no archaeological sites were identified that were eligible for the National Register.
- y McElroy Switch House. This area is in a portion of the Chestnut Hill campus that was indicated in 1994 as archaeologically sensitive. Portions of this area were tested during a subsequent intensive survey and no archaeological sites were identified that were eligible for the National Register.

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## Newton Campus

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### Cultural Resources

Similar to the Chestnut Hill and Brighton campuses, the Newton Campus contains, and is adjacent to, a number of previously recorded historic districts, areas, and individual properties (Figure 8-2). The Newton Campus is recorded on an Area Form (NWT.DL) and includes three inventoried structures.

- y Harriman, Henry I. House (Alumni House) (NWT.5610)
- y Schraft, George F. House (Barat House) (NWT.5396)
- y Stuart, Janet Erskine House (NWT.5256)

A fourth inventoried structure is also located on the Newton campus, but was not included on the Newton Campus Area Form:

- y Mill Street Cottage, 29 Mill Street (NWT.3148)

Review of MHC's inventory indicates that the following inventoried areas and historic districts are located immediately adjacent to the Newton Campus:

- y Towle, Loren Estate – Newton Country Day School (NWT.5611)
- y Towle Estate Area (NWT.BK)
- y East Parish Burying Ground (NWT.801)
- y Edmunds – Madden Estate (NWT.2826)

In addition there are several individually inventoried properties that are located within one-quarter mile of the Newton campus.

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## Demolition

Two structures are proposed for demolition on the Newton Campus: the Quonset hut which is in the northwestern portion of the campus and the Smith Wing of Stuart Hall. The Quonset hut is proposed to be replaced by a new Recreation/Athletics Building. The Smith Wing of Stuart Hall will be replaced with a new wing that will be constructed on the opposite side of Stuart Hall. This will open the existing quadrangle on the south side and enclose it on the north.

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## New Construction

There are three new construction projects on the Newton Campus:

- y The proposed 150-space surface parking lot is located in the vicinity of a previously recorded archaeological site that was identified during an intensive archaeological survey of the campus and reported in a 1995 archaeological report. The new construction may have an effect on previously recorded archaeological sites.
- y The construction of an 8,500 sf. recreation/athletics building involves the demolition of the Quonset Hut as described above. The proposed building is also in the vicinity of several recorded archaeological sites that were identified during an intensive archaeological survey of the campus. The new construction may have an effect on previously recorded archaeological sites.
- y The construction of the 42,000 sq. ft. Smith Wing replacement involves an addition to and alteration of both the Stuart House and the Kenny-Cottle Library. This construction has the potential to impact the Stuart House. Also, this project is located immediately south of the Barat House, which was determined eligible for listing in the National Register by the MHC.

The Newton Campus was subject to a reconnaissance archaeological and architectural survey in 1994 in conjunction with the previous Boston College IMP. The survey identified areas that were considered to be archaeologically sensitive, and were therefore requested by the MHC to be subject to additional archaeological survey. Subsequent archaeological investigations identified archaeological sites on the campus; some of the sites were determined to not be eligible for listing in the National Register while three others have not yet been evaluated to determine if they are eligible for the National Register.