

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL  
DEDICATION  
AUGUST 25, 1996



# Dedication Program

Presentation of the Flag	Local Veterans Groups
National Anthem	Freese Brothers Big Band
Invocation	Reverend J. Phillip Zaeder
Introduction of Guests	Ronald Chagnon Chairman School Board
Guest Speakers	Michael Lee, Principal Marsha Hotchkiss, Incoming Senior Class President
Presentation of Key	Fred Urtz Lavallee/Brensinger, P.A.
Acceptance of Key	Michael Lee Principal Farmington High School
Presentation of Gift To Mr. & Mrs. Thayer	From Faculty & Office Staff
Benediction	Reverend J. Philip Zaeder

Following the ceremony the public is invited to tour the school and enjoy refreshments in the cafeteria.

The 1980's saw tremendous growth for the towns of Farmington and Middleton. The real estate "boom", new area industry and a thriving economy all played an important role in the increased population of both towns in our school district. The need for additional space for our educational programs reached "crisis" stages in the mid 1980's. As overcrowding became a reality, the School Board felt the need to address the problem head on.

In March of 1986, the Farmington School Board invited a committee of local folks to study these space needs and charged them with the task of researching alternatives including a regional or area cooperative school. After meeting with the surrounding towns, the committee recommended to the Board that they pursue a new high school on their own.

The firm of Lavallee-Brensinger was hired to provide a draft design of a new high school, and to prepare a building expenditure budget which would be presented at the next School District Meeting, March of 1988.

On March 24, 1988, the townspeople of Farmington gathered at the Burtman-Rondeau Gymnasium for their Annual School District Meeting. Article I on the Warrant asked the voters to authorize the construction of a new high school on land presently owned by the Farmington School District adjacent to the new ball fields. After many presentations and discussion from the floor, a paper ballot vote was taken. Due to a mis-interpretation of the ballot law and a procedural error, that vote was determined to be invalid. The meeting concluded with a motion to recess until March 29th, at which time they would re-offer Article I for another vote.

On March 29, 1988, the faithful citizens of Farmington once again met and heard presentations and information about the proposed high school. A total of 347 registered voters cast their ballots that evening. A bond issue requires a 2/3 majority vote in order to pass; in this case that number would have to be 232 affirmative votes. The vote was announced by Moderator Virginia Hillsgrove to be 231 aye and 116 nay, thus resulting in a failure to pass by just one vote. Moderator Hillsgrove recessed the meeting once again until April 7, 1988.

On April 7, 1988, 576 registered voters turned out to review the matter one more time. The 2/3 majority vote requirement would now consist of 384 affirmative votes. Unfortunately that number only reached 259, so the motion was defeated. No new school would be built at this time.

In the fall of 1989, the Farmington School Board once again invited the residents of Farmington to come out and take another look at the proposal. Updated figures were presented, presentations were heard and discussion held. In attendance at the October 4, 1989 Special District Meeting were 510 registered voters. The 2/3 majority figure needed to pass the motion was 336, and once again was narrowly defeated by a ballot of 296 aye and 214 nay.

The issue of a new high school and the need for one appeared to have gone dormant for a few years, at least for most people in town. Then it turned out that it had not been dormant for Jim and Beulah Thayer who were in attendance at a School Board meeting on July 18, 1994, and offered to provide the sum of \$2,000,000.00 as a gift to the School District to be used toward the building of a new high school. Combined with Building Aid from the State of New Hampshire, and the sale of bonds, it was determined that the actual construction of the building could now take place with no effect on the tax rate! The wheels were immediately set into motion to get the required affirmative vote from the townspeople of Farmington to support this action. The Thayers also asked that the residents of Middleton be polled to gauge their interest in a new high school as their students attend our school system. Middleton overwhelmingly endorsed and welcomed the idea.

On October 13, 1994, 554 registered voters came to cast their ballots. The 2/3 majority requirement would be 370 in order to pass the motion. The dream of a new high school became a reality when Moderator Mary Barron announced that 533 votes were in the affirmative and the motion had passed by a 96% majority, reputed to be a record for the State!

The winter of 1994-1995 was spent gearing up and getting ready for the actual construction. After bids were opened, Harvey Construction of Bedford, N.H. was awarded the contract to build the school and the official ground breaking ceremony took place on June 27, 1995. Site work began on July 5, 1995 and continued until the completion of the beautiful building we are dedicating today. It should be noted that the Thayers specifically asked that the name of the building always remain Farmington High School.

A lasting tribute to the generosity of the Thayer family and to the dedication of the people of Farmington, the new high school shall stand stalwart throughout the future generations. It is with immense pride that we stand together today united in the cause to provide the best educational experience for our children and theirs.



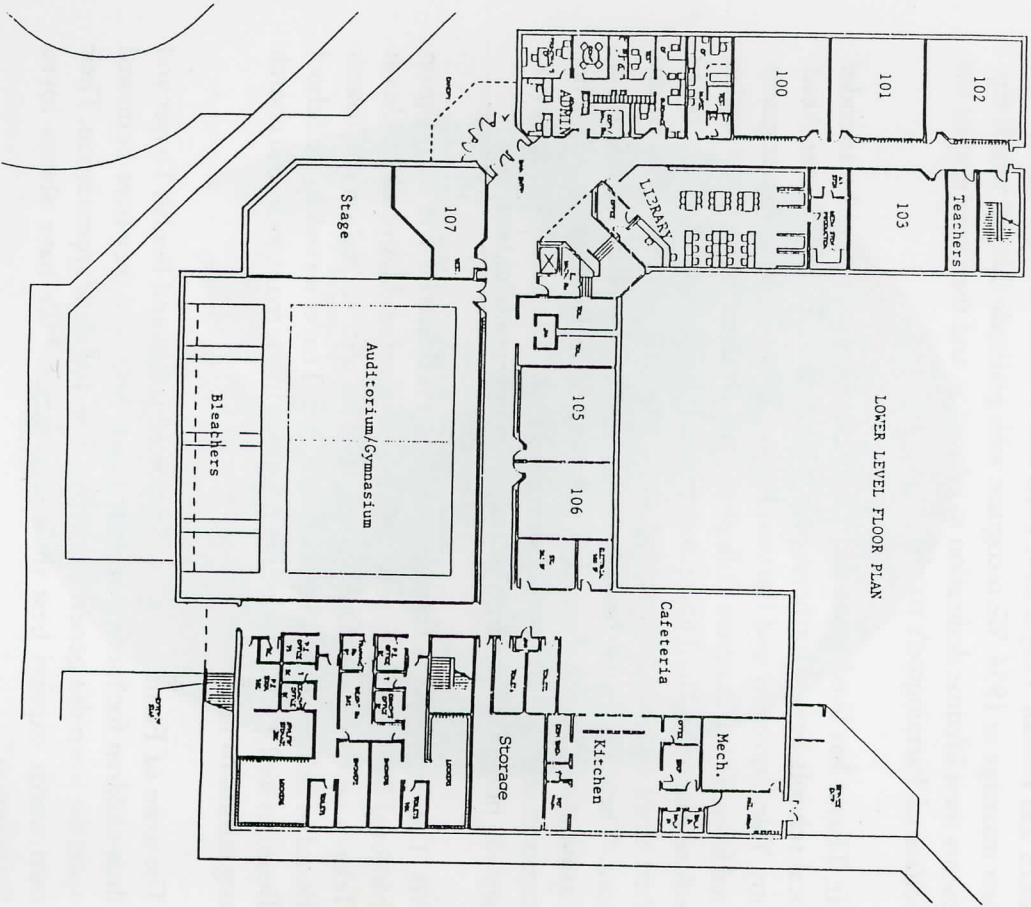
Thayer Tribute  
July 1996

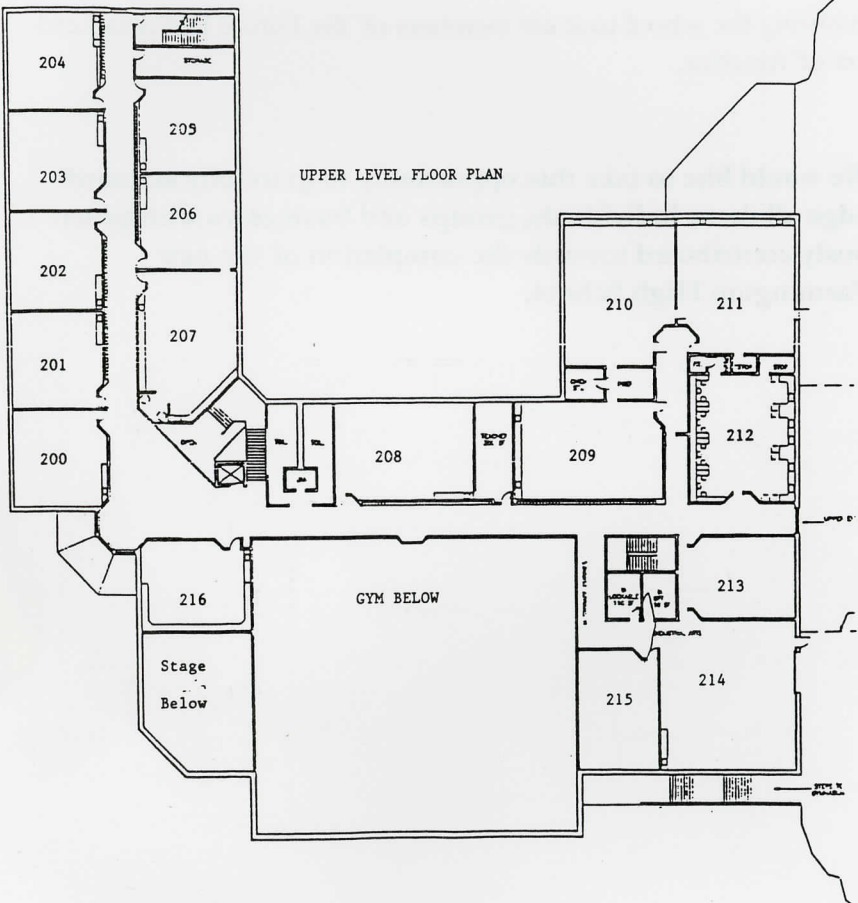
James and Beulah Thayer have lived and worked in Farmington since their marriage in 1934. We recognize with gratitude this gift which represents their lifetime dedication to education and their concern for the welfare of Farmington's youth.

Mr. Thayer has lived his entire life in Farmington, where he attended local schools before furthering his education at Phillips Exeter Academy, Yale University and Harvard Business School. Mrs. Thayer graduated from Keene Teachers College and was an elementary school teacher before marrying Mr. Thayer and moving to Farmington. They raised their three children here and all three have made their homes in this area. Their two sons have been actively engaged in businesses in Farmington through their adult years and their daughter has made her career in teaching and school administration. The family has grown to include nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Thayer served as Cashier and then President of the Farmington National Bank for forty years and as President and Director of Union Telephone Company. During that time he also served on the town's Board of Selectmen and School Board. Mrs. Thayer served on the School Board as well, and in leadership positions in the many local and church organizations to which she belongs.

The town of Farmington has supported James and Beulah Thayer and their children for more than sixty years. And now they have bestowed upon the town this generous gift as a token of their appreciation. Their own words express best their sentiments: "We have always loved Farmington."





UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



The new classroom Flags were graciously donated by the Farmington Veterans Groups, comprised of the American Legion, VFW and DAV.

Assisting the school tour are members of the Future Business Leaders of America.

**We would like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge all those individuals, groups and businesses who generously contributed towards the completion of the new Farmington High School.**