The Farmington High School is located on the crest of a hill on Farmington Avenue just west of Monteith Drive; that area is also the locations of the Farmington Town Hall, Main Library, and Gridley-Parsons-Staples House, a National Register property.
This large, academic, Neo-Classical building exhibits characteristics typical of the style. The front facade consists of seven bays of tripartite windows with one-over-one sash. The entry door, enhanced by a projecting portico, features a classical door surround flanked by paired Tuscan columns. Pilasters exist between each window grouping and at the building's corners. Brick is used on the second and third stories and a concrete exterior is visible on the first story. Capping the building is a cupola set on a base enhanced with classical details. Modern additions have been added to the north, east and west elevations.

By the 1920s, the old Farmington High School, located on School Street in Unionville, had been outgrown. A committee, composed of Mrs. Herbert Knox Smith, Rev. Quincy Blakely, Thomas Hewes, Attorney George F. Hanrahan, and Raymond Case, was appointed by the Town of Farmington to find some appropriate sites for a new high school. In March of 1925 three sites were recommended, each costing less than $20,000. The committee's suggestions were rejected in April of the same year. A new committee was appointed to obtain options on four sites, including the Parsons site near the Gridley-Parsons-Staples House on Farmington Avenue. In January of 1926 this site was approved by a vote of 81 to 64. The town selectmen were authorized to purchase the 45 acres of land from May H. Parsons. By April of 1926 the land was secured and the town commissioned William T. Towner (1880-1951) as the architect. Towner, the principal in the firm of Towner and Sillew of Middletown, Connecticut and New York City, was a noted designer of schools and churches in the state. The contractor for the building was the Mazzato Construction Company. The building was completed by June of 1928. Three additions were made to the original building after World War II.

This building is architecturally significant due to its representation of Neo-Classical-style institutional architecture. Architect designed, it remains one of Farmington's most attractive public buildings.

Sources:

Photographer: Nathan Ainspan Date: 4/86
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Other Notable Features of Building or Site (Include and/or Extent)