RECEIVED
FEB 0 1 2010
SYMMES MAINI & McKEE ASSOCIATES, INC.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 28, 2010

William Wrigley
Town Administrator / Stow Elementary School Building Committee
Town of Stow, Massachusetts
Stow Town Building
380 Great Road
Stow, MA 01775

RE: Pompositticut / Center Elementary School, 403 Great Road, Stow, MA; MHC# RC.47391

Dear Mr. Wrigley:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has reviewed the additional information submitted, received January 19, 2010, concerning the proposed project referenced above. As you are aware, the subject property at 403 Great Road, historically known as the Center School grounds (MHC# STW.180), is included in MHC's Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. The Inventory form specifically denotes a vernacular one-story fieldstone building with a gable roof. After a review of the additional information submitted, MHC staff have the following comments.

The requested current original photographs and historical information provided by Symmes Maini & McKee Associates and Commonweal Collaborative indicate that the fieldstone building, which was once used for an apple storage/barn, was highly altered in 1954 when the building was converted to school use for the Town of Stow. Large doors were infilled and new windows were added on the exterior and new walls and suspended ceilings were added on the interior. Through these and other changes, the fieldstone building unfortunately no longer retains historic integrity architecturally and its setting and relationship have been severely compromised, disassociating itself from its former agrarian heritage when the Town purchased the land from Andrew L. Larsen in 1953. Former agricultural site features such as a farmhouse that was moved, two barns that were demolished, and other landscape features also have no longer remained since the early 1950s. Therefore, it is the opinion of the MHC that the subject property does not meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because the subject property does not retain sufficient integrity (36 CFR 60).

The proposed project consisting of the construction of a new addition and renovations to the existing Center Elementary School as well as partial demolition of the existing Center School

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

building and the demolition of the fieldstone building is described in the Project Notification Form that was submitted to this office, received November 13, 2009.

After review of MHC files and the materials submitted, MHC staff have determined that the proposed project will not affect any significant historic or archaeological resources. No further review by this office is required.

The MHC encourages the project proponent—the Town of Stow—to continue to consult with the Stow Historical Commission and other interested members of the public to address their concerns. The MHC understands from the submitted information that the Stow Historical Commission and other interested members of the public are interested in documentation and memorialization of the fieldstone building and the former blacksmith shop in a manner that is engaging and meaningful to the citizens of Stow and also the elementary school students who utilize the subject property.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with M.G.L., Chapter 9, Sec. 26-27c, as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71.00), and MEPA (301 CMR 11). Please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Maciej of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: James Warren, Symmes Maini & McKee Associates
Katherine Craven, MSBA
Susan Flanagan-Cahill and George Driscoll, MSBA
Secretary Ian A. Bowles, EOEEA; ATTN: MEPA Unit
DEP—CERO
Linda Stokes, Stow Historical Commission
Michelle P. Barker, Preservation Massachusetts / National Trust for Historic Preservation
Dianne Siergiej, Commonweal Collaborative