

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

JUL 21 3 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic William R. Belknap School

and/or common NA

2. Location

street & number 1800 Sils Avenue NA not for publication

city, town Louisville NA vicinity of congressional district 3 & 4

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
NA district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	NA occupied	NA agriculture	NA museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	NA private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	NA commercial	NA park
NA structure	NA both	NA work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	NA private residence
NA site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	NA entertainment	NA religious
NA object	NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	NA government	NA scientific
	NA being considered	NA yes: unrestricted	NA industrial	NA transportation
		NA no	NA military	NA other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jefferson County Board of Education

street & number 3332 Newburg Road

city, town Louisville NA vicinity of state Kentucky 40218

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 6th and Jefferson Sts.

city, town Louisville, state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? NA yes no

date 1982 NA federal state NA county NA local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Division

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> NA excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> NA deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> NA ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> NA altered	<input type="checkbox"/> NA moved	date <input type="checkbox"/> NA
<input type="checkbox"/> NA fair	<input type="checkbox"/> NA unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Belknap School is located in a neighborhood of early twentieth century residences in the Highlands of eastern Louisville. The school property sits on one city block with portable classrooms on both side of the school and a grassy playground to the east. The playground, which consumes half of the block, and the portable classrooms are not included in the nomination.

The Belknap School is a two-story building on a raised basement. The building has a central projecting entry bay and projecting end wings. The central projecting entrance contains double doors with a single transom. The panes have geometric mullions. This entrance is encased in a stone surround with an arched tympanum lined with exaggerated dentils. Within the tympanum is a central lamp with the words LUX ET VERITAS, "light and truth," above an open book with a fig branch. In the lintel is a band of exaggerated dentils. In the stone surround, the school name, WILLIAM R. BELKNAP SCHOOL, is located above the doors, flanked by applied decorative terra cotta motifs. On the second floor is a pair of windows with vertical mullions in both sash, and crosshatch mullions in the upper portion of the upper sash. Flanking the windows are applied, terra cotta torch motifs. The inside walls of this projecting bay contain three stepped windows on the first level and paired windows on the second with the flanking torch motifs. The fenestration of the recessed facade plane which flanks the entrance bay consists of five basement-story windows and five windows on both the first and second floors. The basement-story windows have six-over-six lights. A stone band divides the basement-story from the first floor. The first and second floor windows contain unusually patterned geometric lights. Pilasters rise from the sill of the first floor windows to the lintels of the second floor windows, with tapestry-like terra cotta panels on the pilasters between the second floor windows. A stone band divides the second floor from the large parapet wall with a stone coping. On the inside walls of each wing are three basement-story windows and two first and second floor windows with the same mullion patterns found on the recessed front facade windows. Applied tapestry-like panels are found on the second floor. The ends of the wings contain no fenestration and are the most decorative planes of the structure. The same tapestry-like panels found on the other facade planes are also located here, on both sides of a central, slightly recessed plane which contains banding and brickwork which comprise another tapestry-like design. The stone band which divides the basement-story from the first floor is interrupted by an elongated arch with a medallion containing an old city of Louisville emblem. On every outside corner of the building at the parapet level is a band of exaggerated dentils with projecting ends. On the right side of the building is an entrance for the boys and on the left side is an entrance for the girls. The entrance is within a stone surround with the tapestry-like applied motifs on each side of the entrance. The name BOYS and GIRLS is located in the lintel. There are small paired windows above the entrance and another larger pair on the second level. The rest of the fenestration on the side walls of the building is the same as that found on the front. The windows on the rear of the building have nine-over-nine lights.

The polygonal smokestack contains some of the same decorative elements found on the school building. Every door knob on the interior is a bust of William R. Belknap.

NOTE: It is not clear what material was used in the surrounds and applied motifs and banding on this building. It is terra cotta, stone or cement - most likely a combination of all three. Assumptions were made as to the material used in the context of the description. If and when terra cotta was used, it is unglazed.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
NA prehistoric	NA archeology-prehistoric	NA community planning	NA landscape architecture	NA religion
NA 1400-1499	NA archeology-historic	NA conservation	NA law	NA science
NA 1500-1599	NA agriculture	NA economics	NA literature	NA sculpture
NA 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	NA education	NA military	NA social/ humanitarian
NA 1700-1799	NA art	NA engineering	NA music	NA theater
NA 1800-1899	NA commerce	NA exploration/settlement	NA philosophy	NA transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	NA communications	NA industry	NA politics/government	NA other (specify)
		NA invention		

Specific dates 1916

Builder/Architect Alt Building Company/J. Earl Henry

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Belknap School is an outstanding example in Louisville of the eclectic styles of the early twentieth century. The craftsmanship displayed in the terra cotta ornamentation on the building's exterior make it one of the city's finest examples of Sullivanesque detailing.

The Belknap School was designed in an eclectic style. The plan is typical of the Neo-Elizabethan style schools of the period, but the decorative elements are both classical and Sullivanesque. The main entrance is an example of the combination of the decorative motifs. Exaggerated dentils line the arched panel above the double doors. This panel also contains a lamp, symbolic of enlightenment, hope, window and truth, an open book, symbolic of intellectual attainment, and a fig branch from the tree of knowledge. The remaining elements are stylized foliate patterns, typical of Sullivanesque detailing. The projecting end wings of the building also contain geometric and foliate stylized panels, described in a 1916 article from the Courier Journal as tapestries.

The Belknap School was the last of seven schools built with a local bond issue from 1914 to 1916. J. Earl Henry was architect for schools and was responsible for the designs of most of the seven buildings, including Male High School, (National Register, 1979). Henry also designed Brandeis Elementary School (National Register, 1980). Henry was in partnership with Brinton B. Davis before becoming school architect, and assisted Davis in the plans for the Broadway School (proposed National Register). Henry is known particularly for his use of classical and mythical symbolism, as well as his ingenuous eclectic designs. The Belknap School remained a neighborhood school until 1980 when it was closed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .51 acres

Quadrangle name Louisville East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6
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6	1	4	7	1	0
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4	2	3	1	0	4	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification Part of City Block 80A Lot 84
The boundary includes the school building only, omitting the portable classrooms on the north and south sides of the building and the playground to the rear. (See Sanborn Map.) Beginning 60' from the SE corner of Wibben Avenue and Sils Avenue on the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (continued)

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission

date 3/31/82

street & number 727 W. Main Street

telephone 502-587-3501

city or town Louisville

state Kentucky

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Mary Curran Apple*

title *State Historic Preservation Officer*

date *2/9/82*

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Selma Byers **Keener of the National Register** **Entered in the National Register** date *8/12/82*

Attest: **Chief of Registration** date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 13 1982
DATE ENTERED	

William R. Belknap School
1800 Sils Avenue
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

"A Resource to Treasure", Courier-Journal, ND.

"Architect for School Dies", Courier-Journal, February 18, 1920, p. 12.

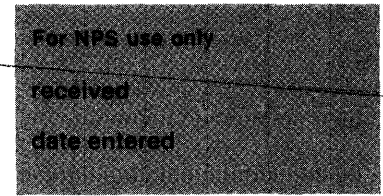
"Board Accepts Belknap School", Courier-Journal, August 26, 1916.

Withey, H. F. & E. R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects,
Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

William R. Belknap School, Louisville, Jefferson County, KY.



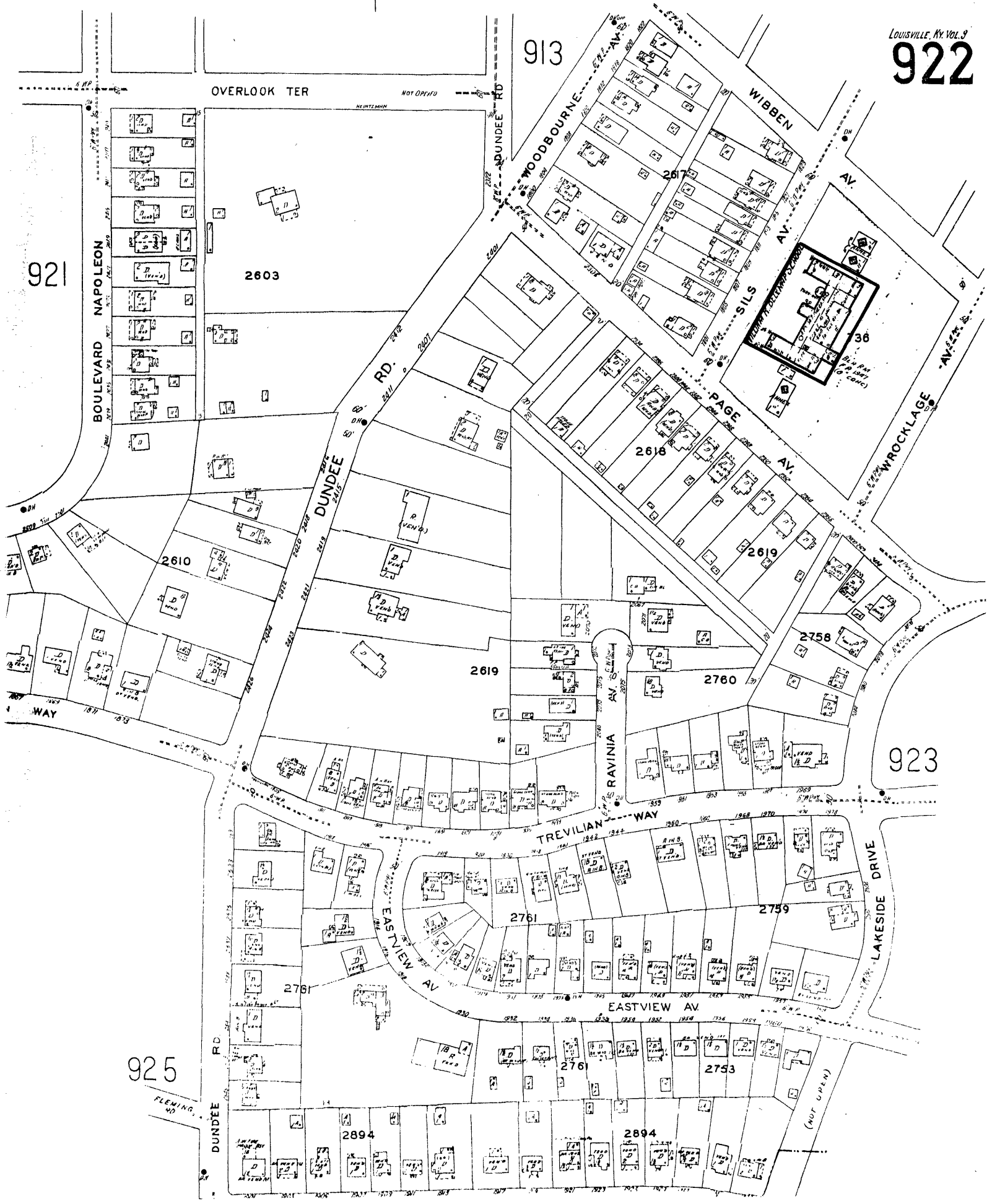
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

east right-of-way line of Sils Avenue, then southwardly along said right-of-way line 100'; thence eastwardly 75'; thence northwardly 100'; thence westwardly 75' to the point of beginning.



921

913

OVERLOOK TER

BOULEVARD NAPOLEON

2603

DUNDEE RD

WOODBOURNE

WRIBBEN AV

SILS AV

PAGE AV

ROCKLAGE AV

2610

2619

2618

2619

2760

2758

923

TREVILIAN WAY

2761

2759

2761

EASTVIEW AV

2761

2753

925

DUNDEE RD

2894

2894

FLEWING RD

(NOT OPEN)

William R. Belknap School
1800 Sils Avenue
Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY
Sanborn Map
Sanborn Map Co. Pelham, NY 1974