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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name William H. Crogman School  
other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 103 West Avenue  
city, town Atlanta ( ) vicinity of  
county Fulton code 121  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30310

( ) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

### Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

### Number of Resources within Property:

### Contributing

### Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

*Richard Clout*

*5-24-05*

Signature of certifying official

Date

*for* W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

*Edson H. Beall* *7/14/05*

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

*for*

Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

Education: school

### Current Functions:

Domestic: multiple dwelling

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian: Romanesque Revival

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	Concrete
<b>walls</b>	Brick
<b>roof</b>	Terra Cotta
<b>other</b>	Glass

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The William H. Croghan School is a two-story Romanesque Revival-style urban public school located in the African-American neighborhood of Pittsburgh in southwest Atlanta. Designed by Atlanta architect A. Ten Eyck Brown and built in 1922, the long rectangular school is clad in brick and supported by a reinforced-concrete frame. The three-part façade features a center entrance pavilion with diaper-patterned brickwork and a machicolated corbel table. The arched entrance features a transom and steel double doors. The red-tile parapet rises above the flat roof. Banks of six pivoting casement windows across the front and rear signify the locations of classrooms. Most windows are metal-framed 15-light windows.

The interior plan features ten classrooms on the first floor organized along a double-loaded corridor. The second floor includes twelve classrooms and the partial basement contains five classrooms. In 1949, the Atlanta architectural firm Tucker and Howell designed additional classroom space in additions to the north and south sides of the building. These two-story classroom additions match the original building except that they do not include an entablature with decorative brickwork. Tucker and Howell also designed an auditorium/cafeteria and lobby at the north end of the school. The lobby is entered through three doors with fanlights that are sheltered by a concrete awning. The auditorium features two dressing rooms on either side of the raised stage. Also in 1949, the library was built opposite the main entrance in the location originally designated for the auditorium. A second-floor classroom was built above the library.

Interior partition walls are built of brick or clay tile. The walls and ceilings of the corridors and classrooms are plastered and painted. The concrete floors are covered with terrazzo in the corridors and wood in the classrooms of the original building. The concrete floors in the 1949 classrooms

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally       statewide       locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A       B       C       D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**  N/A

A       B       C       D       E       F       G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

Architecture  
Education  
Ethnic Heritage: Black

**Period of Significance:**

1922-1955

**Significant Dates:**

1922 – William H. Crogman School Completed.

1949 – Classrooms and auditorium built on north and south sides of Crogman school.

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Barili, Alfredo, Jr. (architect)  
Brown, A. Ten Eyck (architect)  
Tucker and Howell (architecture firm)

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Atlanta City Directories, 1900-1951.

Atlanta Public School Archives, Atlanta, Georgia.

Craig, Robert M. *Atlanta Architecture, Art Deco to Modern Classic, 1929-1959*. Gretna, La.: Pelican Publishing Company, 1995.

Ecke, Melvin. *From Ivy Street to Kennedy Center*. Atlanta Board of Education, 1972.

Ellis, Marion. Ray and Associates. Crogman Elementary School. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, 2001.

Engelhardt, N. L. *Survey of the Public School Buildings and the School Building Program for Atlanta*, Vol. I and II. Atlanta Public School System, 1921-1922.

Ray and Associates. *Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Georgia, 1868-1971*. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, 2005.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): ( ) N/A**

- ( ) **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- (X) **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**  
**date issued:** The William H. Crogman School received final certification from the Technical Services Branch of the National Park Service on December 5, 2003.
- ( ) **previously listed in the National Register**
- ( ) **previously determined eligible by the National Register**
- ( ) **designated a National Historic Landmark**
- ( ) **recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #**
- ( ) **recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

**Primary location of additional data:**

- (X) **State historic preservation office**
- ( ) **Other State Agency**
- ( ) **Federal agency**
- ( ) **Local government**
- ( ) **University**
- ( ) **Other, Specify Repository:**

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A**

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## **10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property**      Approximately 2 acres

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 16      Easting 741280      Northing 3734700

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The historic district boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the remaining property and the intact resources historically associated with the William H. Crogman School.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Steven Moffson, Architectural Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 414-H  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** May 20, 2005  
**e-mail** steven\_moffson@dnr.state.ga.us

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)** ( ) not applicable

**name/title** Marion Ellis  
**organization** Ray and Associates  
**mailing address** 328 7<sup>th</sup> Street, N.E.  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** GA **zip code** 30308  
**telephone** N/A  
**e-mail** N/A

- ( ) **property owner**  
(X) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
( ) **other:**

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**organization (if applicable)** Urban Residential Finance Authority  
**mailing address** 86 Pryor Street, S.W.  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** GA **zip code** 30303  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Section 7--Description**

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were covered with linoleum tiles or carpet. Transom windows provide light and air circulation between the classrooms and the corridors. The floors and walls in the kitchen and bathrooms are tiled. In the original building each classroom features a cloakroom partitioned from the classroom. In the 1949 classrooms, Howell and Tucker substituted built-in closets for the cloakrooms.

In 2003, the school was rehabilitated into loft apartments as part of a certified tax incentives project. The overall interior plan was retained and many of the historic building materials were preserved. As part of the rehabilitation, a three-story L-shaped apartment building was built on the athletic field behind the school. The new apartment building is not included in this nomination.



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8—Statement of Significance

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The William H. Croghan School is one of a number of large city schools built in Atlanta during a major school-improvement campaign in the 1920s. Supported by a city-wide bond referendum, the schools were built in both white and black neighborhoods. The Croghan school is located in one of Atlanta's traditional African-American neighborhoods.

The William H. Croghan School is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of urban public school built in the Romanesque Revival style. Most schools were designed in the revival styles popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including Colonial, Classical, Spanish Colonial, Georgian. The Romanesque Revival style was used for schools throughout Atlanta, such as those in the Garden Hills, Reynoldstown, and Washington Heights neighborhoods. The Croghan school, with its machicolated corbel table and arched entrance, is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style.

The urban public school, according to the historic context *Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Georgia, 1868-1971*, was built throughout the United States as well as in Georgia. In Georgia, it was centrally located and easily accessible by main thoroughfares. It was two to three stories, contained from four to twelve classrooms, usually had a basement, and usually an auditorium/gymnasium. The building could be built of wood, but was more commonly of masonry construction. The footprint in most cases was rectangular, but occasionally irregular or L-shaped buildings are found. Tile was a common material for roofs, which were often hipped. The mass was dense and compact. Auditoriums were sometimes part of the initial design but implemented later, and are a common alteration to this type of school. Additional classrooms, as the school population expanded, were another common alteration to the buildings.

Wide, double-loaded corridors divided the interior space. Sometimes, especially on the first floor, two intersecting corridors provided access to the classrooms. The halls were very important spaces, and it was believed they should be visually pleasing. They could be used for art display as well as bulletin or notice boards, and gave students a sense of spaciousness. These buildings housed a minimum of four classrooms on each floor. The classrooms were often designed to be divided again if necessary. Classroom ceilings were generally twelve-feet high to allow for necessary ventilation. Libraries and instructional materials were housed in wood cabinets inside the classroom. In many cases, each classroom would have a separate cloakroom, located where a teacher could oversee the students entering and leaving. Offices were also included in the building.

Windows were important for light and ventilation. They were large, multi-light wood windows either individually placed or in groups of two or more, and it was considered important for each classroom to have several windows. The walls were plastered and painted, and the floors were wood. The school was connected to the city water and sewage system. A steam furnace system, located in the basement, heated the school with flues set into the walls and venting into the attic space.

Placement of the school on its lot was an important consideration. Setback from the street varied

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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and was probably dependent on the lot depth and the size of the school. These buildings had multiple entrances and a distinctive main entry on the street side of the building. A sidewalk led to the main entrance. The school was also entered from the rear to allow students to return to the building after recess. Playgrounds and recreational areas were located behind the building, away from the street and traffic. Shade trees were planted if they were not already present on the lot. Auditoriums were often added as funds became available. Other common changes were additional classroom wings, which were usually placed on the sides if there was sufficient land.

The Croghan school is significant as the work of a well-known Atlanta architect, A. Ten Eyck Brown. Brown designed numerous buildings in Atlanta in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the Thornton Building (now Ten Park Place South Building), the U.S Post Office (now the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Building), the United Motors Service Building (now the Peachtree-Pine Building), the Highway Board Building, the Fulton County Court House, Clark Howell Homes, and Roosevelt High School. Alfredo Barili, Jr., associate architect for the project, designed the original Gordon School Building in 1910 as a partner in the Atlanta architectural firm Battle and Barili.

The Croghan school is significant for its association with education and black ethnic heritage because it represents the first generation of modern public schools in Atlanta that were built to serve the city's African-American students. Between 1909 and 1921, the Atlanta Board of Education adopted a more progressive and modern curriculum, the educational system was more open to outside ideas and personnel, and the outreach of the entire system became far more extensive as Atlanta grew and expanded its boundaries. After the 1921 Strayer and Englehart report gave poor marks to the city's school programs and facilities, the city began a campaign to improve its inadequate schools that lasted through the 1920s. The William H. Croghan School, built in 1922, represents the Atlanta Public School system's campaign to improve its facilities for African-American students. It also represents the influence of newly enfranchised African-American residents who voted to support the bond referendum for this campaign only after it was adjusted to specifically include schools for African-American students. The effort continued after World War II as additional classrooms, a library, and an auditorium/cafeteria were built in 1949.

Urban public schools are significant as examples of the first schools built in the cities and large towns of Georgia. When they were built, they were some of the most important buildings in their towns and cities. Even today, these are the buildings that represent the idea of "school" in the minds of many people. The Croghan school, which served the Pittsburgh community for 57 years, incorporated the most current health and educational standards for early 20<sup>th</sup>-century school construction. Each classroom was lit and ventilated by a bank of windows and each floor included sanitary boys and girls restrooms. By 1949, a kitchen and cafeteria were added to provide students with healthful lunches. In addition to day-time classes, the Croghan school offered night school to students of any age that sought an elementary education.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**National Register Criteria**

A— The Crogman School is significant for its association with education and black ethnic heritage because it represents the first generation of modern public schools in Atlanta that were built to serve the city's African-American students.

C—The Crogman School is an excellent example of an urban public school designed in the Romanesque Revival style by the well-known Atlanta architect, A. Ten Eyck Brown.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1922 with the completion of the William H. Crogman School and ends in 1955 at the 50-year end date when the school last served as an educational institution.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The Crogman school is only the historic resource associated with this nomination. An apartment building that was recently constructed on school property at the rear of the lot has been excluded from the nomination because it is not eligible for listing in the National Register.

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

In the first decades of the 20th century, conditions at elementary schools in the African-American neighborhood of Pittsburgh in southwest Atlanta were deplorable. The Strayer-Engelhardt report of 1920 provided the first citywide evaluation the Atlanta's public schools. The report addressed a wide variety of issues, such as site analysis, building structure, service systems, classroom layout, and specialty rooms. The report also dealt with the organization, administration, and finances of the school system. The report rated each school and classified them four groups according to the urgency of needed improvements. Recommendations were prepared for each school. The Strayer-Engelhardt report provided a harsh critique of the Atlanta school system.

The same method of rating school buildings for white children was applied to African-American schools. Five-hundred points of a possible 1,000 points was considered the minimum score for the continued use of a school. Only one of 15 African-American schools in the school system received a passing score.

The Pittsburgh School, the predecessor of the Crogman school, received a score of 80 and was slated for closure. This school was part of the Fulton County School System until January 1910, when it was annexed by the Atlanta Public School system. After it closed, grades first through third

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8—Statement of Significance

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attended school in the basement of the Gate City Methodist Church at the corner of Arthur and Smith streets. The upper grades attended classes in the Heard's Park building, located on Mary Street near Stewart Avenue. Later, a two-story frame house was used as a school for African-American children in Pittsburgh.

By 1920, the student population in Atlanta had increased to 41,337. For the first time, the school system was forced to buy portable two-room buildings for use as additional classrooms at overcrowded schools. In 1920, a bond issue permitted the construction of a new elementary school in Pittsburgh named for William H. Croghan, the first African-American President of Clark University.

In 1922, the Atlanta Public School system hired the well-known Atlanta architect A. Ten Eyck Brown to prepare plans for the new building at 1093 West Avenue on land donated by Clark University. Alfredo Barili, Jr., served as associate architect on the project, which was executed in two phases. The original building included 19 classrooms along a double-loaded corridor. The exterior reflects Brown's interest in "Near Eastern ornament and color extending from Byzantine and Romanesque to Islamic forms."

Carrie Badger Pittman was a teacher at the Pittsburgh School from 1903 to 1910, when she was appointed principal. She served as principal of the William H. Croghan Elementary School from 1922 until she retired in 1940.

A "night school" was offered at both the Pittsburgh and Croghan schools. This system, primarily for African Americans, allowed children and adults who were unable to attend regular classes to obtain a formal education. Student could take the classes necessary to reach the elementary or secondary school level, whereas night classes for white students were centered on vocational studies. In the school year 1921-1922 at the Pittsburgh School, grades one through seven were offered at night school. The teaching staff at night was different from the day school. In the school year 1937-1938, 610 students whose ages ranged from 14 to 60 attended Croghan night school. The annual superintendent's report for 1939-1940 stated that 17 students graduated from Senior High School, 15 from Junior High School, and 25 from the Croghan night school.

Another bond issue for the Croghan school in 1948 supported the construction of additional classrooms, an auditorium/cafeteria, kitchen facilities, and bathrooms the next year. Designed by the Atlanta architectural firm Tucker and Howell, the auditorium was moved from the center of the rear façade as planned by A. Ten Eyck Brown in 1922 to the north end and the library was built in its place. Additional classrooms were built on the north and south ends.

In 1970s, enrollment in the Atlanta Public School system dropped from 100,000 students to 80,000 students in one year. In 1979, the Croghan school was among five schools that were close because of declining enrollment. The school remained vacant until it was rehabilitated to loft apartments in 2003.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** William H. Crogman School  
**City or Vicinity:** Atlanta  
**County:** Fulton  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** April 2004

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 19

1. South side and main façade, photographer facing northwest.
2. Main façade, photographer facing northwest.
3. Main façade, photographer facing southwest.
4. Main entrance, photographer facing west.
5. Main entrance, photographer facing southwest.
6. Auditorium entrance, photographer facing west.
7. Rear façade with auditorium (left), photographer facing southeast.
8. Rear façade, photographer facing southwest.
9. Rear façade, photographer facing northeast.
10. Rear façade, photographer facing northeast.
11. Apartment building at rear, photographer facing southwest.
12. Interior, first floor, main entrance, photographer facing southeast.
13. Interior, first floor, corridor, photographer facing south.
14. Interior, first floor, stairwell, photographer facing west.
15. Interior, first floor, classroom, photographer facing northeast.

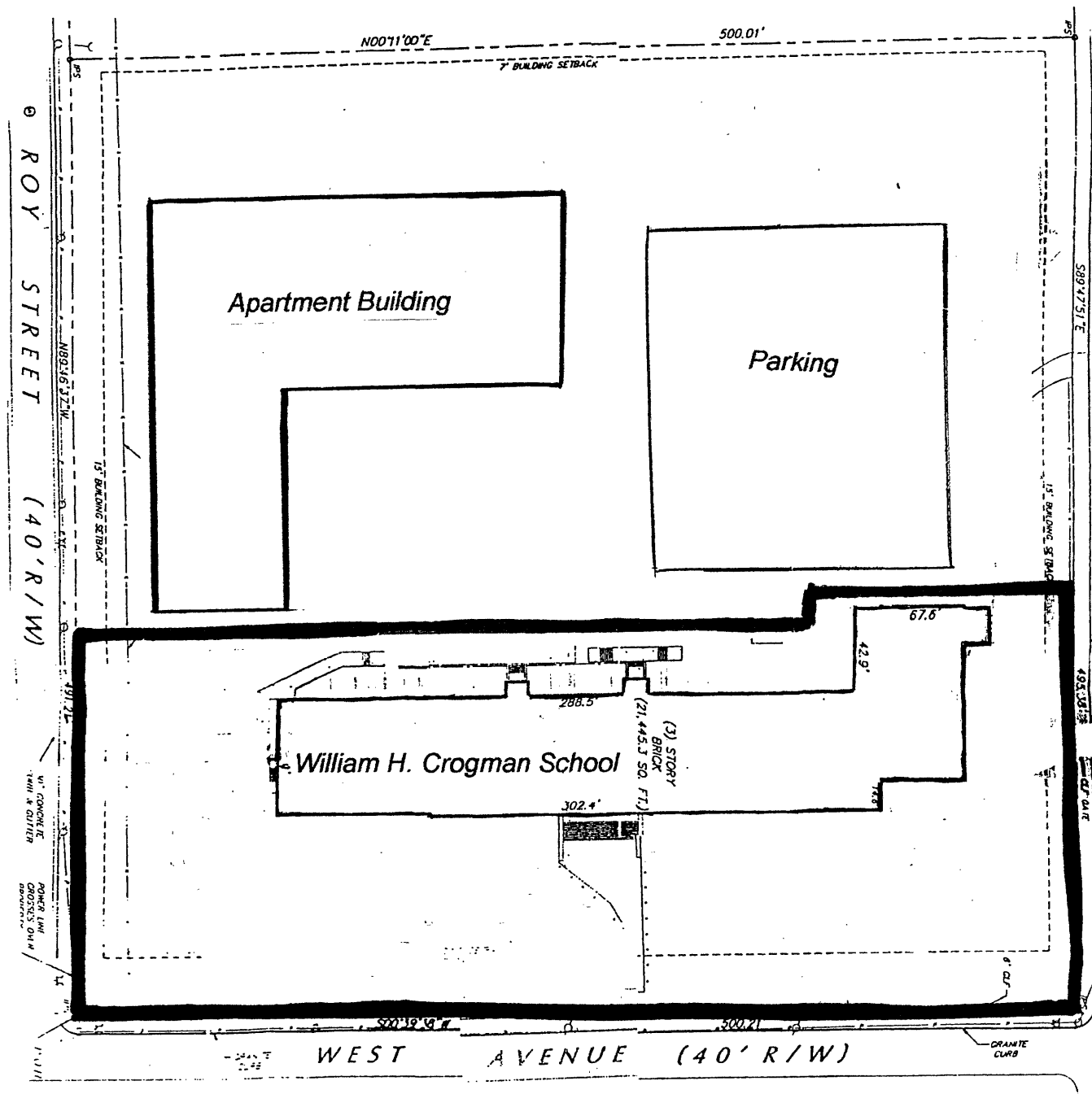
**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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16. Interior, first floor, classroom, photographer facing northwest.
17. Interior, first floor, auditorium lobby, photographer facing east.
18. Interior, auditorium, photographer facing west.
19. Interior, second floor, corridor, photographer facing south.

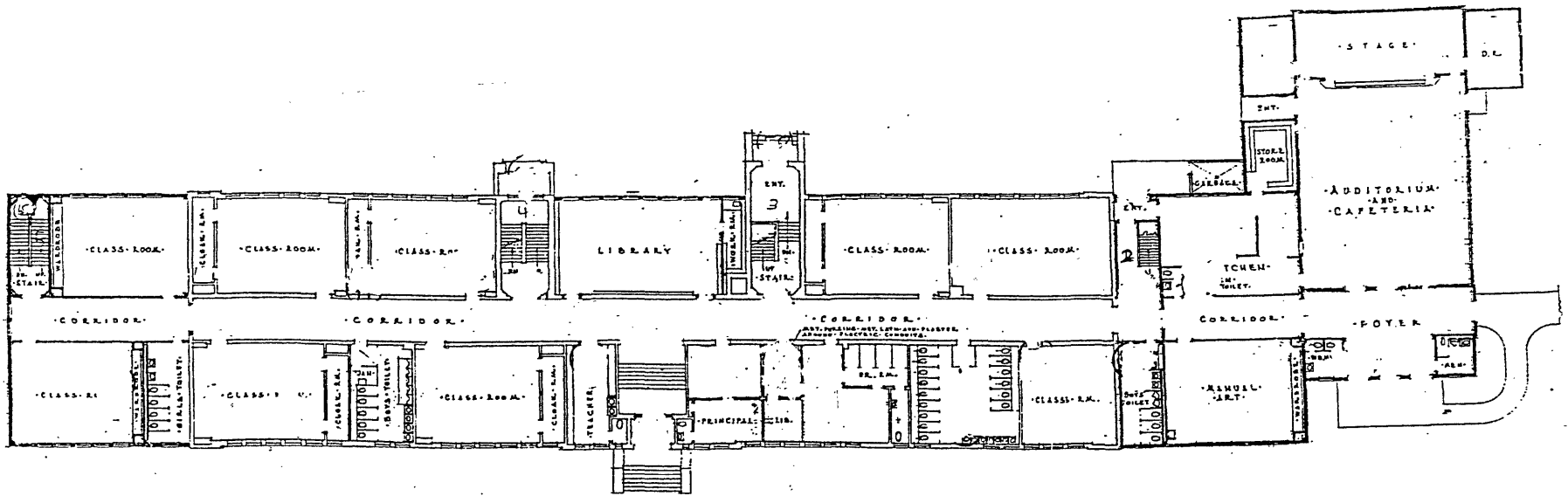
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



William H. Crogman School  
 Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

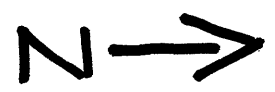
National Register Boundary **—————**

Approximate Scale: 1" = 75'



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

William H. Croghan School  
 Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia  
 First-Floor Plan



Approximate Scale: 1' = 35'