

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

For NPS use only

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

received **MAY 12 1986**

date entered **6-13-86**

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

**1. Name**

historic Henry P. Coburn Public School #66

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number 604 East 38th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Park Place Associates

street & number 3848 Washington Boulevard

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46205

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City-County Building

street & number 200 East Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Survey Report for Indianapolis/Marion County title Indianapolis/Marion County Please see continuation sheet  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Henry P. Coburn School #66 is a brown brick two-story structure with raised basement. The original building, stretching along 38th Street between Broadway and Park Avenue, is rectangular, with an irregular but symmetrical addition on the rear (north). Other than the limestone coping, the structure is trimmed with buff terra cotta: cornice, belt course below the cornice, water table, base, sills, pilaster capitals, and decorative relief tiles. A copper gutter remains in place. The windows are the original wood frame double-hung sash type, with nine-over-nine lights, terra cotta sills and brick heads.

The symmetrical main south facade on 38th Street contains nine major bays--31 windows fenestrated 5/2\*5/1\*5/1\*5/2\*5. The asterisked bays have smaller windows, above each of which is a rectangular tile decorated with equestrian figures. Between each indicated window grouping are two brick pilasters capped with terra cotta. Above the pilasters is a terra cotta frieze which supports a frieze of patterned brick with festooned terra cotta panels above each set of pilasters.

Centered in the facade is a hooded compound round arch with a scroll bracket beneath each label stop, all in terra cotta. Within the arch the coffered ceiling is composed of terra cotta rosettes. On either side, in the spandrels of the arch, are round medallions. Flanking the entrance are single windows topped with two of the equestrian-figure tiles. Above the entrance, carved in limestone, is "No./Henry P. Coburn School/66."

The east elevation of the original building is pierced only by three narrow windows over an entrance, and six basement windows. To the north is a connecting portion with one entrance bay (two windows above), then a six-bay 1929 addition, which continues the terra cotta ornament and the pilaster strips. The west elevation is identical.

The north elevation, or rear of the building, is symmetrical. The center section is recessed and has five windows. A three-and-one-half story rectangular smokestack rises from the roof east of the center. Flanking the recessed center section are two sections with five windows each, trimmed similarly to the primary facades. These two sections are flanked by wings that project even further. These wings are blank, however, except for terra cotta belt coursing and entablature trim.

**Interior:**

On the first and second floors there are a total of 23 classrooms and a gymnasium. At the main entrance is a compound arch constructed of oak. The floors of the corridors are terrazzo and the walls are wainscoted with glazed brick and oak molding. Each classroom has an oak doorway. The upper 1/3 of the doors consists of four glass panes. The classrooms have hardwood floors with oak baseboard molding.

## 8. Significance

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

<b>Specific dates</b>	1915, 1929	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	W. P. Jungclaus, Builder Rubush and Hunter, Architects (1915) Harrison and Turnock, Architects (1929)
<b>Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)</b>			

A beautifully symmetrical structure with a slight Mediterranean influence, indicated by the arched entrance and relief medallions, Henry P. Coburn School #66 is significant for its classically-derived architecture, including its abundant use of terra cotta. Although School 66 is not the only example of terra cotta trim on an IPS school, its use is sufficiently uncommon as to be notable. It is the most notable of the few remaining Indianapolis public schools designed by the prominent architectural firm of Rubush and Hunter.

Indianapolis rapidly expanded northward after 1900, encouraged by the extended streetcar lines. In his annual report of October 25, 1910, Superintendent of Schools Calvin Kendall recommended that the School Board "investigate purchasing a lot north and east of P.S. #60. The new P.S. #43 [completed that year] will provide for the western part of the territory north of 34th, but I believe it will be necessary to erect another building somewhere in the vicinity of Central Avenue to provide for the eastern part of the same rapidly growing district."

In November, 1912, land was purchased on which to build a new school that would serve to relieve the brimming School 60 about a mile to the southwest. In February, 1914, Rubush and Hunter were chosen as architects for a ten-room building with assembly hall to be built on 38th Street. W. P. Jungclaus, a prominent Indianapolis builder, was awarded the contract that summer. School 66 was opened for the new school year in September, 1915. It did not yet have its assembly hall, but five rooms in the basement were used for that purpose, later to be used for shop and home economics. Enrollment increased rapidly, and as early as 1919 a survey of building improvement needs included four classrooms and an auditorium for School 66.

But the School Board had enough trouble attempting to keep up with far more urgent needs elsewhere, and so portable classrooms were erected on the School 66 grounds, not to be replaced until 1929, when a new eight-room addition with auditorium was completed.

In February, 1928, Harrison and Turnock, architects of the 1927 Crispus Attucks High School, were selected, and in September the contract was awarded to Service Construction Company. The addition harmonizes with the original.

In the 1930s, adult education classes in art were organized with noted Indianapolis artist, William F. Kaeser, as instructor, under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The north side group met at School 66 and continued to do so long after the Depression was over, evolving into today's Indianapolis Art League, now located in Broad Ripple. This adds a special note to the school's historic significance.

School 66 was named in 1916 for Henry P. Coburn, the chairman of the first Board of School Trustees (predecessor of the Board of School Commissioners) appointed in 1853. His efforts were largely responsible for the creation of laws that provided the first free schools in the city. A lawyer by profession, Coburn was noted for his commitment to public works, with no thought of compensation.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	5	7	3	0	4	0	4	4	0	8	5	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded by 38th Street on the south, Park Avenue on the west, Broadway on the East, and an alley on the north.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael D. Bennett

organization date February 12, 1986

street & number 3848 Washington Boulevard telephone 317/923-2633

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46205

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-30-86

For NPS use only

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

date 6-13-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet Coburn School #66      Item number 6 and 9      Page 1

A Preliminary Determination for Individual Listing was issued by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service on January 25, 1985.

Item number 9

"Annexation Map", Hand-colored. Records, Room B-12, City-County Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Architects Files, Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission, Room 1821, City-County Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Construction Projects, Remodeling, Site Purchases, Proposed Projects, 1946-1982; Indianapolis Public Schools - Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis.

Directory of Public Schools of the City of Indianapolis, Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, 1873-1895, inclusive.

Fire Protection Engineering Report on the School City of Indianapolis, Indiana Inspection Bureau. October, 1930, revised January, 1933, revised March, 1939.

Gale, Frederick, A Biographical Study of Persons for Whom Indianapolis Schools are Named. Indianapolis Public Relations Department, Indianapolis Public School, 1965.

Greiff, Glory June, List of Pre-World War II Public School Buildings Still Extant in Indianapolis (Pre-Unigov Boundaries), November, 1983.

Historical Sketches of Schools 1-97, CAHS, EMTHS, ATHS, SHS, GWHS, TCHHS, & HEWHS, Indianapolis: the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, 1953.

Indianapolis City Directories, Indianapolis: R. L. Polk & Co., 1878-1970, inclusive.

Manual of the Public Schools of the City of Indianapolis. Indianapolis: Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, 1873-1895, inclusive.

Minutes, Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, 1872-1940, inclusive.