

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 03000726

Date Listed: July 30, 2003

Property Name: West End High School

County: Davidson

State: Tennessee

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Daniel J. Vivian

Signature of the Keeper

July 30, 2003
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3: State/Federal Agency Certification

The recommended level of significance is hereby changed to local.

The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

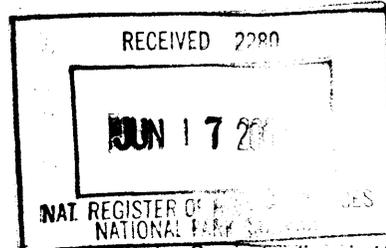
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1726



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name West End High School
other names/site number West End Middle School; Hilary E. Howse School

2. Location

street & number 3529 West End Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Nashville N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Davidson code 037 zip code 37205

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hoyer 6/13/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

AUG 1 2003
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Choose only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Contributing Noncontributing

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school
RECREATION and CULTURE/ sports facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school
RECREATION and CULTURE/ sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; Stone
walls Brick; Stone
roof Tile
other Glass, Metal, Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C moved from its original location.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937-1953

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Southgate, Donald architect/ PWA, WPA

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Metropolitan Historical Commission

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 12.7 (Nashville West 308 NE)**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>515727</u>	<u>3998473</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>515996</u>	<u>3998285</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>516001</u>	<u>3998443</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>515711</u>	<u>3998244</u>

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Elizabeth Moore/Historical Commission Intern and Blythe Semmer/Historical Commission Stafforganization Metropolitan Historical Commission date June 3, 2003street & number 209 10th Avenue, S. Suite 414 telephone 615-862-7970city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37203**Additional Documentation**

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's locationA **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Metropolitan Board of Education of Nashville and Davidson County, Attn: Joe Edgensstreet & number 2601 Bransford Avenue telephone 615-259-8400city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37204**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

7. DESCRIPTION

West End High School is located on the southeastern corner of West End and Bowling Avenues, just behind Elmington Park, in Nashville, Tennessee. The school lies just west of Interstate 440 and a few miles west of downtown. West End High faces West End Avenue, or U.S. 70, to the north. This is a major west Nashville corridor into downtown. West End High School is bounded by Bowling Avenue on the west and Elmington Avenue on the east, with parking lots accessible from these two streets. Elmington Park lies directly north of the building, offsetting the school from West End Avenue. A group of neighborhoods that developed from c. 1910 through the 1940s surrounds the area. The site contains one contributing building, the West End High building (Donald Southgate, 1937), one contributing structure, a 1938-42 football field and stadium, and one non-contributing building, a 1964 gymnasium located on the east side of the main building.

The **West End High School** building was completed and opened in the fall of 1937. Designed by Donald Southgate, a prominent Nashville architect of the time, the building exhibits Colonial Revival stylistic characteristics. The three-story building, following a typical progressive "T"-shaped plan, is constructed of red brick veneer and stone and topped by a clock tower supporting a copper dome.

The north façade is divided into eleven bays with a projecting pedimented entrance bay that exhibits Colonial Revival elements. A series of graduated concrete steps leads up to the entrance with a classically styled concrete railing running along the sides of the upper level of steps. Smaller projecting wings flank each side of the building. The stone entrance is divided into three bays, with three pairs of recessed metal and glass pane doors on the ground level framed by rusticated voussoir detailing, slightly arched four light transoms, ten over ten double hung windows on the second level, and ten over ten compass windows on the third level. Balustrade details lie underneath the second floor windows of the entrance bay. Stone pilasters of the Ionic order rise from the second to the third floor, dividing the bays of the entrance. The pediment contains a D window topped with a keystone, details characteristic of the Colonial Revival style. Dentil molding runs along the cornice and the pediment.

A 122-foot Colonial Revival brick clock tower is centered on top of the main block. Columns support a copper dome. The base measures seventeen square feet and extends sixty-six feet above the roof line. The bell, used in Nashville's Buena Vista Seminary until 1935, was cast in Cincinnati in 1886. It is two feet and nine inches in diameter, three feet tall, two inches thick, and weighs approximately one ton. Each side of the first level of the clock tower holds a clock face four feet in diameter while the east and west sides of the base have D windows. A balustrade railing above the clock faces surrounds the tower, with doors opening onto the deck underneath the columns. Two sets of circular staircases with seventy steps each lead to this deck.¹ Each corner of the clock tower has quoin detailing.

The entrance bay is flanked on each side by a single bay with ten over ten double-hung windows on each of the three levels. Windows throughout the building are wood. These bays are slightly recessed from the entrance bay and are decorated with repeating bands of raised brick. Symmetrical, slightly recessed three-bay wings flank the center section of the building. Each of the bays consist of paired six over six double-hung windows flanked by single six over six double-hung windows on each of the three levels. A side gable roof covers the wings, with imitation chimneys breaking the roof line into three sections. The end wall of the wings also mimics this chimney form.

Attached flat roofed one-story wings are found on each side of the main block containing classrooms and the bandroom. These have three central six over six double-hung windows with single six over six windows on each side of the central windows. Repeating bands of raised brick decorate the surface mimicking that of the central part of the building. A six-paned fixed window lies in the stone foundation providing light to the basement level.

¹ Wallace Stanley Tyson. *West End High School: Those Were the Glory Years* (Nashville: Nashville Printing Company, 1996), 13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

The west and east elevations contain the end of the classroom wings and the gymnasium, cafeteria, and auditorium. The one-story wings open into the classroom hallways. A wing housing the gymnasium, cafeteria, and auditorium stretches south from the center of the classroom wing. Three-story stair towers centered on the ends of the classroom wings serve as entrances to both ends with concrete steps rising up to a metal and glass pane door. A metal awning covers the doors and a concrete wall contains the steps. A ten over ten compass window rises above the door with a decorative arched stone and brick frame, exhibiting the Colonial Revival style. An added section at the top of the entrance shows a modern change in the brick bond and has a D window and is topped with a cornice. Brick courses run along this section, defining the roof line and the top of the windows of the one-story section. Flanking this entrance on the foundation and main levels are paired six over six double-hung windows with single six over six double-hung windows on either side. A brick course runs along the top of the window, continuing from the central entrance across the facade. Above the course, bricks form the outline of a box, decorating the surface. This section lacks the cornice line running along the central entrance. The south side of the western one-story wing contains a double door flanked by two over one double-hung windows. Six-paned fixed windows lie in the upper half of the door. Six over six double-hung windows lie on each side of the entrance with six-paned fixed windows in the foundation level. The eastern one-story wing replaces the door with a set of three six over six double-hung windows.

The south elevation of the three-story classroom wing is split by the "T" of the building, with a symmetrical arrangement on each side. The elevation contains two sections of six over six paired-single-paired window patterns on each side of the "T". The windows are found on all three levels of the structure. A cornice runs along the roof line with three brick "chimneys" topping this section.

The three-story wing housing the auditorium, gymnasium, and cafeteria extends toward the south, forming a "T" with the classroom wing. The auditorium lies in the portion directly to the south of the classroom wing. This section contains two six over six double hung windows flanked by two over two sidelights and a side door with a metal awning and stone frame on the lower level. A one story corridor runs along the sides of the auditorium on the interior of this section. A recessed section of three six over six compass windows with two over two sidelights extend from the second to the third levels with decorative brick trim framing topped by a keystone. A cornice runs between the top of the window line and the roof line. The southern corners of the auditorium consist of a brick arch capped by a keystone with one six over six window on the first level and a six over six compass window on the second level. Paired three over three double-hung windows lie above the cornice and below the roof line. Three levels of six over six double-hung windows are on the north and south sides of this section.

The cafeteria lies on the first level of this recessed second portion, with three pairs of six over six double-hung windows in the center and single six over six double-hung windows on the sides. This pattern repeats on the gymnasium level rising through the second and third floors, with a six-pane fixed window below each of the double-hung windows. Brick courses continue below the first level of windows and the cornice continues just below the roof line. This section has a side gable tile roof covering the gymnasium. Stairways that lie on the south side of the cafeteria and gymnasium are similar to the stairways of the auditorium from the exterior, but are simpler in stair towers that they only contain a six over six double hung window. A brick-outlined box replaces this window pair and a door replaces the lower window on the north side of these stairways.

From the south or rear of this wing of the building, a three-bay portion is visible above a protruding section. Three pairs of six over six double-hung windows are found in this portion of the building. A four-bay projecting section extends from the central part of the south elevation. On the west and east sides, two six over six double-hung windows lie in each of the two levels. The angled corners contain six over six double-hung windows on the lower level and three over three double-hung windows on the upper level. This pattern repeats on the south four bays, replacing the second bay windows with a door containing six glass panes on the first level and a six-pane fixed window on the upper level. Awnings cover the windows on the lower third and fourth bays.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

The interior of the building retains a high degree of integrity for a school in continuous use since 1937. The plan is typical for that of a progressive "T" school, with the auditorium perpendicular to the classroom wing. The three sets of double doors on the façade lead into the main lobby with slate floors, wood wainscoting, and black marble base molding. Two square wood columns divide the lobby from the main hallway perpendicular to it. Paneled walls and "hat box" shaped brass light fixtures in this entrance illustrate the Colonial Revival style. Display cases, donated in 1954, sit in front of each of the two columns and in the center of the lobby boasting the school's achievements. A door leading into an office lies on each side of the lobby and brass grilles cover radiators within the lower section of the walls. The office is located on the west side of the lobby with the entrance along the main hallway. Open stairways lie on either side of the auditorium on the south side of the lobby. These lead to the second and third floor classroom hallways and contain wood wainscot and slate floors, continued from the lobby area. Corridors lead from this area along the sides of the auditorium. The openings into these corridors from the main hallway were once arched brick openings but have been filled in with sheetrock and wooden double doors, probably for security purposes. Their original shape is still visible.

The auditorium lies directly across from the lobby on the south side of the main hallway. Entrances from the lobby, from corridors extending along the length of either side of the auditorium, and from either side of the stage area lead into this impressive space. Wooden seats accommodating 750 people fill up the first floor space measuring seventy by seventy-four feet. The seats in the upper balcony and on the sides of the balcony have been replaced, but remain original in the floor level and lower balcony level of the auditorium. The metal end pieces of the rows of seats contain classical details. The balcony, beginning forward of the halfway point of the lower level, provides seating for an additional 450 people and wraps around with walkways and some seating available along the side walls. Entrances to the balcony level are found on the hallways of the second and third floors and on either side of the stage. The entrances to the balcony on each side of the stage contain nine-light doors set in arched recesses. The windows on the lower level of the auditorium have been boarded, while the center windows and sidelights of the upper level are both double-hung sash windows. A stage measuring sixty-three by twenty-eight feet lies at the front or south of this auditorium space.² Marble trim surrounds the opening of the stage while the auditorium space exhibits decorative molding and wide baseboards. Original round flush-mounted light fixtures with brass hardware lie underneath and above the balcony, while mid-century brass chandeliers hang in the main open seating area of the auditorium. This area contains poured concrete floors, concrete steps, and plaster walls. Stairways on either side of the stage lead to the cafeteria and gymnasium.

The cafeteria lies directly behind, or south of, the auditorium on the first floor with corridors on each side of the auditorium leading to this space. It originally accommodated about 300 students. Above this space sits the original gymnasium now used for basketball practice, extending through the second and third floors. It is constructed of brick with balconies lining the two long sides. Original wood seats lie in the balconies. Brick arched openings lead to stairways at each corner going down to the cafeteria. A historic scoreboard remains in the gymnasium attached above the goal. The basement of this area contains locker rooms with old football lockers and equipment and a boiler room still in use at present.

The brick stair halls on the ends of the classroom wing contain large arched wood windows and wood handrails with metal rails. They provide access to all three floors. These stair halls are constructed of American bond brick and contain an added window on the third floor. This window and a change in bond material reveal a modern addition. Except for these brick stair halls and gymnasium, plaster covers all of the interior walls. Inset metal lockers line the first, second, and third floor hallways. These hallways contain tile floors, plaster walls, and dropped ceilings. Arched recessed spaces contain the water fountains. Restrooms along the classroom wing exhibit original white tile with black trim on the bottom half of the walls. Classroom doors line these second and third floor hallways, as well as the wings of the first floor front hallway. These original doors contain nine panes in the upper portion and a transom now covered. However, the shape of the transoms is still visible.

² Ibid, 12.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

The classrooms lining the hallways follow a typical plan. They contain original hardwood floors, original wood windows, plaster walls, and wooden blackboards surrounding the walls. The ceilings have been dropped and window air conditioning units have been added.

The library lies in the north central section of the second floor of the building, overlooking Elmington Park and West End Avenue. It maintains the original wood doors, shelves, and librarian's desk. This space has been renovated, adding carpets and dropping the ceiling.

The band room is housed in the western one-story wing of the building. It boasts hardwood floors, original light fixtures and an office located off the band room containing wooden cabinetry.

A football field and stadium lie to the south of the building behind parking lots and a service drive. The field was built by the Works Progress Administration and was complete, minus the bleachers, in time for the 1938 season. The WPA completed the concrete bleachers accommodating 3,000 spectators in time for the dedication of the new stadium at the 1942 opening game.³ The bleachers sit on the north and south sides and a small building lies on the south side. A chain link fence surrounds the area. This is a contributing feature of the school site.

A 1964 brick veneer gymnasium attaches to the east side of the building by a flat roofed arched covered walkway leading to a doorway on the west side of the gymnasium. A second entrance lies on the same side of the gymnasium. It has a low-pitched roof and three sections of four compass windows on the north and south sides. The windows are covered except for the arched section on the top exhibiting arch detailing. This structure is non-contributing due to its date of construction.

³ Ibid, 29, 54.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

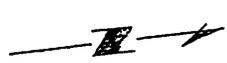
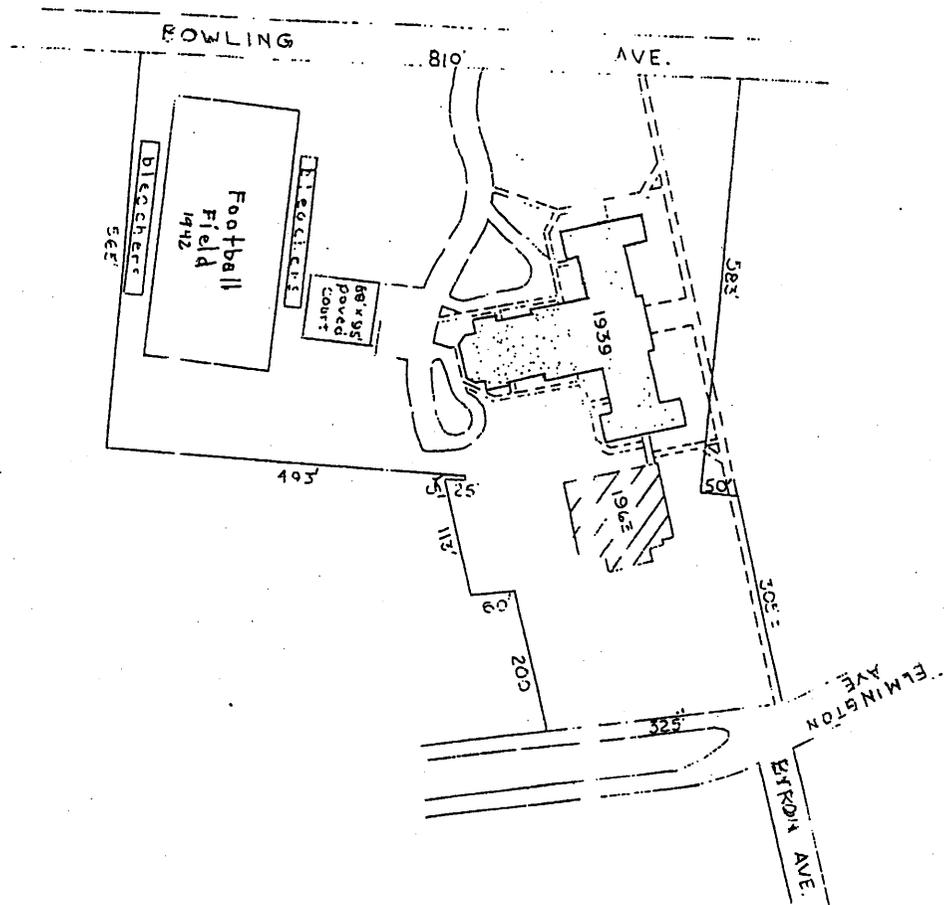
Section number 7 Page 5

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

Plot Plan

Scale: 1" = 100'

SOURCE: METROPOLITAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



WEST END HIGH
PLOT PLAN
SCALE: 1"=200'

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion A: Education

West End High School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for the significance of New Deal agencies in the involvement in school building construction in Nashville. With a 1931 survey and report on Nashville's schools by Dr. Frank Bachman, plans for the construction of adequate educational facilities began to develop. At the onset of the depression, New Deal agencies enacted under the Roosevelt administration became involved in several public projects. West End High School was one of nine schools included in a 1933 Public Works Administration program allotting \$3,900,000 to the city of Nashville, with \$2,000,000 for educational facilities. The Public Works Administration (PWA) supplied thirty-percent of these costs, totaling about \$900,000. This program included \$500,000 for Donald Southgate's West End High School, which, since its opening in the fall of 1937, has been used continuously as a school to the present. This first phase of PWA school building construction finally concluded in 1937 with eleven new school buildings and additions.⁴

West End High benefited from another New Deal agency, the Works Progress Administration (WPA). At the opening football game in September 1942, the school held their dedication of the new stadium completed by the WPA during the previous summer.⁵ West End High School represents the significance of 1930s New Deal school building projects in Nashville designed to meet the standards of educational facilities across the country.

Criterion C: Architecture

West End High School is also eligible under criterion C as an excellent local example of the Colonial Revival style and the work of Nashville architect Donald Southgate. This Colonial Revival building stands as one of his most notable buildings and represents his strong sense of design and structure. West End High also exemplifies the Progressive educational reform movements of the mid-1910s and 1920s in its "T"-shaped plan. Progressive building plans such as this allowed for more natural light and facilities to support expanded curricula.⁶ This building also represents the significance of the PWA in the construction of adequate school facilities in Nashville during the 1930s. PWA construction projects worked to improve school conditions such as heating and ventilation, fire protection, artificial lighting, electric service, and water supply.⁷ The PWA often used the Colonial Revival style in the construction of their projects due to its simplicity of form, making it economical and easy to build.⁸

West End today maintains the original design and function intended by Donald Southgate in the 1930s with few alterations. Although making a shift from a high school to a junior high school, the school continues to serve the public as an educational facility. It keeps with the progressive "T" plan and preserves a high level of integrity in plan, materials, and workmanship. The setting and feeling remains relatively unchanged due to the surrounding park and neighborhoods.

⁴ Trina Binkley, "The New Deal Era School Building Program in Nashville, Tennessee," n.d., draft paper in files of Metro Historical Commission, Nashville, 17-19.

⁵ Tyson, 54.

⁶ Binkley, 5-6.

⁷ Ibid, 10.

⁸ David Gebhard, "The American Colonial Revival in the 1930s," 112.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Reform movements in education of the mid-1910s and 1920s called for improvements in educational physical plants. Efforts for standardization led to the use of pattern books compiled by government agencies or higher educational institutions. These patterns changed the typical "urban block" Victorian era designs of the time to more functional "T," "H," or, later, rectilinear-shaped buildings. The previous designs, based on hall-plans, typically accommodated at most four large classrooms. The new pattern books set standards for site orientation, classroom size, and building materials. They also made specifications for lighting, heating and ventilation, rest rooms, and furniture arrangement, while providing recommendations for playgrounds, gymnasiums, laboratories, and assembly rooms. Bisecting halls became the standard, providing an easier exit route in case of fire than the cluttered hallways of previous school buildings.⁹

These pattern books, used until about 1930, marked the beginning of educational reform in Nashville. However, the Nashville school system continued to remain behind the standard compared to other school systems in the country, and with a growing population, the city needed further upgrades to meet these standards. With Frank Bachman's 1931 survey and report on the condition of Nashville schools, the recognition of the need for improvements in school facilities fully surfaced. Nashville ranked poorly in its educational standards in the late 1920s. In comparison to seventeen other southern cities, Nashville ranked last in per pupil value of school property and teachers' salary per pupil, sixteenth in per pupil expenditures, and eleventh of fourteen in instructional cost per pupil. Many schools were found with inadequate space, lighting, and other amenities to properly educate the children.¹⁰ The city wished to raise the standards of the physical plants as well as the character of the individual schools and students. This resulted in an educational building plan and a change in educational programs and motivations.

To make sufficient upgrades, Bachman made six recommendations for Nashville's public schools. Among these were a politically and financially independent board of education overseen by a superintendent, an expansion of school materials, new standards of preparation, a new salary schedule, and full day schooling for every child.¹¹ Most importantly, however, the physical plant needed serious upgrades to meet the modern standards of educational facilities. Bachman's survey examined the site of the building and its general plan, the service systems, the classrooms and equipment, and the general rooms. Bachman found that, in 1930, about 9,617 students were placed in spaces inadequate for educational purposes.¹² The shortage of space brought about a proposed building program projected to last ten years, with two phases of five years each. The first phase would add elementary and junior high facilities while the second would allow for greater enrollment in these schools and provide additional space for senior high students in the form of additions to existing plants and new school buildings.¹³

Bachman's proposal called for about fourteen new schools for white children and seven for black children. This included four new high schools, three white and one black. Only one of these schools was constructed before the effects of the Depression left the Board of Education with inadequate funds. The construction of the \$413,600 East High School (NR 1/25/02), designed by Nashville architects Marr and Holman, had begun in 1930 and finally ended in 1933. As the Board of Education funds began to decrease, the Civil Works Administration stepped in to provide funds for labor costs of East High. After the completion of East High, the remainder of this Nashville school building project was carried out with the help of New Deal organizations begun in 1932 by the Roosevelt administration, specifically the Public Works Administration (PWA) between the years of 1935 and 1940.¹⁴

⁹ Binkley, 5-7.

¹⁰ Doyle, 94.

¹¹ Frank I. Bachman *Public Schools of Nashville, Tennessee: A Survey Report* (Nashville: Division of Surveys and Field Studies, George Peabody College for Teachers, 1931), vii-viii.

¹² Ibid, 253-255.

¹³ Ibid, 297.

¹⁴ Binkley, 12-13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

With the deepening depression brought about by the stock market crash of 1929, unemployment had reached 25 percent by the end of 1930. After failed attempts at the local level, people began to turn to the federal government for relief.¹⁵ In 1932, New Deal programs implemented by the Roosevelt administration began. In June of 1933, the Public Works Administration (PWA), officially the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, was organized under Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act. This program worked to provide jobs for the unemployed and to boost the construction industry crippled by the depression. In Tennessee, under the direction of Kenneth Markwell, the PWA assisted the completion of 555 projects amounting to ninety million dollars, with the PWA providing about sixty million dollars in grants and loans. These projects included various road construction projects, railroads, and local government buildings, while taking greatest pride in its school building construction and improvements. The agency allocated 45 percent of the costs in grants for most of these projects, while providing considerable loans for the remaining 55 percent.¹⁶

In 1933, Nashville entered into this six year relationship with the PWA concerning the building of public schools. A public works program supported by Mayor Hilary Howse allotted \$3,900,000 of city funds for school construction, including \$2,000,000 for elementary and secondary school building construction. The PWA planned to provide a grant of about \$900,000, approximately thirty percent of the total cost.¹⁷ This plan would be a continuation of a building program begun in 1927 to provide adequate school facilities to more children. In 1927, the Chairman of the Board of Education, George Cate, had found that 77% of Nashville's children attended inadequate schools. This program came to a halt with the crash of the stock market in 1929, with little progress having been made.¹⁸ Committees again formed in November of 1933 to evaluate the process of constructing educational facilities in order to continue the earlier program; and within two days they chose thirteen projects, later narrowing it to nine. Among other facilities, a \$500,000 West End High was chosen and given to architect Donald Southgate to design. This plan eventually changed to include eleven new buildings and additions and ended in 1937 with the completion of all eleven projects.¹⁹

These PWA school buildings typically consisted of brick and concrete and usually illustrated the Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, or PWA Modern style. They were simple in form and kept even proportions, exhibiting a sense of stability important as a representation of the standardization efforts of this time. Southgate designed West End School in the Colonial Revival style, following these progressive ideas.²⁰ During this time in Nashville, many buildings, public and private, displayed this style of architecture. An outburst of this style, evident in the areas surrounding West End High, came about for several reasons, particularly because of the strong sense of nationalism and timelessness it evokes. It looks to the style in place at the founding of the country, symbolizing a strength and determination needed to form an American identity. During the 1930s, with the onset of the depression, this symbolism of our heritage became an encouraging hope to the public in a time of uncertainty. This style not only represents an appreciation of the country's history, but also, because of its simplicity, is economical to build. Due to this, many New Deal agencies adopted this style of building for their projects. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) went on to publish the American Guide series, especially for the eastern states, which illustrated the preferred styles of architecture for public buildings. A major component of these books was the Colonial Revival style.²¹ Various projects from the 1930s represent the efforts of these New Deal agencies in the standardization of school buildings.

Although each of the PWA schools follows the same general standardization plan, the architects use various styles to meet these specifications. The Colonial Revival style of West End High creates a contrast to other examples of New Deal schools in Nashville. East High School, designed by architects Marr and Holman, exhibits a classical style with

¹⁵ Don Doyle. *Nashville Since the 1920s* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1985), 86.

¹⁶ Carroll Van West. *Tennessee's New Deal Landscapes* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000), 15-16.

¹⁷ Binkley, 17.

¹⁸ Tyson, 11.

¹⁹ Binkley, 17-19.

²⁰ West, 98.

²¹ Gebhard, 110-112.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

Art Deco details. When compared to the style of West End High, this building appears far more modern in style on both the exterior and interior, while following the same general layout.²² A further contrast is seen in Pearl High School (NR 8/2/02), considered the most modern in style of the New Deal schools in Nashville. Designed in the Art Deco style by architects McKissack and McKissack, this building stood as the most modern and well-equipped school for the African-American population in Nashville at the time. Each of these schools shows a variety of styles given to generally the same standardized plan of construction. Other PWA school projects in Nashville include the Classical Revival Bailey Junior High and Elementary School addition, the Gothic Revival Cameron Junior High and Elementary School, the PWA Modern Eakin School, the Tudor Revival Lockeland Elementary School, and the Art Deco Howard Junior and Senior High School and Walter Stokes School.²³

Construction on West End High School concluded in 1937 and the doors opened on September 7 of that year to students in grades 10-12, with an enrollment of 823. With the addition of grades 7-9, enrollment rose to 1,025, not including the 250-300 students who enrolled but were found to live in other school districts. Southgate's original design included thirty-five classrooms, 8 used as science labs, a large library, a cafeteria, an auditorium, and a gymnasium. Dr. William Henry Yarbrough, a leading educator in Nashville at the time, was chosen as principal during the summer before the opening. He was serving at the time as the Superintendent of Peabody Demonstration School where he was the first history teacher and acted as director for fourteen years, during which time the school gained national academic recognition.²⁴

While anticipating the arrival of students to the newly completed West End High School, Dr. Yarbrough developed a five-point program concerning the ideals and standards of the school. His desires for the school focused on an overall positive educational climate, an important aspect in the improvement of educational standards in Nashville. The first point dealt with scholarship encouraged by challenging and enjoyable motivation in the classroom. The second developed standards for extracurricular activities that would prove beneficial to the students. The third stressed individuality of the students, while the fourth dealt with defining a role for the individual students. The last addressed a sense of citizenship within the student body accomplished by an interest in current events, respect for others and the law, and the development of wholesome attitudes. Dr. Yarbrough gained much respect and admiration among the community and students of West End High from its opening until his departure in June, 1954. During that time, he succeeded in building the character of the school and its students, setting a standard of school environment for Nashville education. Following his retirement, he remained active in the community, as health permitted, until his death, June 25, 1961.²⁵

In February 1937, a proposal was made to name the school building after Nashville's mayor, Hilary E. Howse, honoring his involvement in the progress of public education in Nashville. This suggestion initially passed with no opposition. However, soon after this decision, the consistent use of "West End High School" during construction began to cause controversy. The community and future students had grown accustomed to the name, which reflected its location in Nashville. In addition, the city became aware of a rule stating that no PWA project could bear the name of a living person. With these objections, George Cate, Chairman of the Board of Education, decided to make the official name "West End High School." However, at the dedication of the new school on November 8, 1937, he continued to refer to it as "Hilary E. Howse School." It was not until the mayor declined the honor on November 10 that the name was officially dropped. The controversy arose again after the sudden death of the mayor on January 2, 1938. Since the name "Hilary E. Howse School" now met the standards of the PWA, it was again officially changed to memorialize the late Mayor Howse. Nevertheless, students and parents began to petition against this name. The newly elected superintendent, W.A. Bass approved to have the name changed back to "West End High School," and

²² Binkley, 13.

²³ West, 100-103.

²⁴ Tyson, 5.

²⁵ Ibid, 5-7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

later began referring to the gymnasium as the "Hilary E. Howse gymnasium," hoping to appeal to both groups' wishes.²⁶

The extracurricular activities of the school established West End High as an important and leading component of the city of Nashville. The form of the building contributed to the success of these activities, supporting a winning basketball team, an excellent drama club, and band. During its early years, the West End High School gym saw the athletic performance of one of the top basketball teams in the state. West played in the state finals for six straight years, between 1943 and 1948, under the direction of Coach Emmett Strickland. During this time, they captured the state championship three times, being the only team in the state to receive the title as many times in such a short period. The team became state champions again in 1954, inspired by an unexpected appearance of Dr. Yarbrough late in the game during his last year as school principal.²⁷

The auditorium stands as the most impressive feature of the school. With a capacity of 1,200, the two-level auditorium was one of the most attractive in Nashville, exhibiting numerous chandeliers, windows, and beautiful seats. Accessible from all three floors of the building, this room hosted many performances beginning with the opening of the school. These included appearances from the Dramatic Club and the Choral Club, becoming leading organizations in the city. The band also benefited from the structure with a state-of-the-art bandroom and found its place as a notable organization in the area during the early years of West End High.²⁸

Southgate provided the school with an excellent library overlooking Elmington Park, and shelves, tables, and chairs fell within the construction budget. But, with the construction of the school, the budget had failed to provide funds for books. The Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools required a minimum of five books per student in addition to periodicals and newspapers. This crisis was met by the organization of a "Book Week" by students, faculty, and parent groups. Within a two-day period of plays, an evening social, a tea, and a dance, enough money was raised or donated to meet this requirement. Local bookstores also helped with the donation of books to solve this problem.²⁹

The early days of West End High School saw much emphasis on military programs, such as the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Opening during a time of mounting international tension, administrators recognized the demand for an ROTC unit almost immediately. Enrollment began on September 7, 1938 for students at West End High School and East High School. Company I became the cadet company at West End High that year. Initially, 130 students enrolled, three-fourths of those being recruits. The other quarter of the students had been previously involved at Hume-Fogg High School (NR 10/16/74) and among these students, officers were chosen. Company K was added during the second year to allow for greater enrollment, escalating as World War II approached. The program remained strong and enrollment reached its peak during the war years at all city schools. However, after the end of the war and into the late 1940s, the numbers drastically declined and in 1953, the program ended. The girls at West responded to the boys' ROTC program with the beginnings of the Women's Organization of Coed Cadets (WOCC) in the fall of 1942. The program began with 160 girls who participated in all the parades, drills, and formations as the boys' ROTC. This program lasted until the fall of 1944 when the progress of the war began to improve.³⁰

In addition to the ROTC program at West, students became involved with the war effort in other ways. Drives were underway to collect paper, magazines, metal, kitchen grease, rubber, aluminum, and tin cans. Students entered into a competition to sell War Bonds and Stamps and eventually collected enough to pay for a B-17, Flying Fortress, valued around \$450,000. Knitting and sewing clubs offered by the Red Cross and Home Economic classes allowed girls to become further involved in the war effort. Many students left West to fight in the war and by September 1944, 532

²⁶ Ibid, 13-14.

²⁷ Ibid, 6.

²⁸ Ibid, 12, 22, 36.

²⁹ Ibid, 16.

³⁰ Ibid, 17, 53, 65.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

students had spent time fighting, sixteen of those sacrificing their lives.³¹ These various war efforts allowed the students to rally together to support their country, thus forming a stronger sense of community within the school.

West End High was one of many buildings in Nashville designed by architect Donald Southgate. He served as one of twelve original members of the Nashville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, established in 1922, and one of the six founding members of the Tennessee Chapter in 1932. After attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and spending three more years employed by eastern firms, he returned to Nashville in 1914 for the remainder of his life. Southgate designed many public buildings and homes in the Nashville area, each contributing to a diversity of style. His designs include the Gothic inspired West End Methodist Church, the Colonial Revival West End Church of Christ, the former Jacksonian apartment building on West End Avenue, Madison High School, and the 1935 PWA Joseph B. Knowles Memorial Home for Aged Colored Persons. He also designed several houses, each evoking their own style due to the fact that they were created for different people. This work sought to meet the desires of his clients rather than specializing in one particular style of building.³²

The face of West End High School, among all schools in the nation, underwent a major change after the 1954 school year. Dr. Yarborough retired as principal in 1954 and the United States Supreme Court found racial segregation unconstitutional in May of that year, leading to various integration programs. In September of 1957, a grade-a-year desegregation program began in Nashville in hopes of having a fully integrated school system by 1968. Each public school in Nashville joined as one school system to achieved this desegregation goal ahead of schedule. However, the plan accomplished few positive results. Over half of the schools remained 99% black or white and many schools, including West End High School, began to see the movement of many white students to private schools. Schools during this time became more cost oriented, finding that smaller neighborhood schools could no longer survive. The school continued as a high school for fourteen more years, but 1961 saw the removal of grades 7-9. In 1966, with the reinstatement of grades 7-9, West End High School began a three year period to phase out grades 10-12. The high school students moved at the rate of one grade per year to Hillsboro High School, supplemented by a \$300,000 construction grant. Simultaneously, junior high students from Cavert began moving to West End, leaving Cavert as a special educational facility for handicapped children. West End Junior High School served grades 7-9 from 1968 until 1971 when the 7th grade was discontinued. The name at this time became West End Middle School, which then had an enrollment of 427 students and 34 faculty members.³³

Since its opening in 1937 to present, West End School has remained continuously functioning as a school. The original structure stands with few alterations. In 1964, a second gym, the only addition, was added on the east side of the building.³⁴ The structure continues to illustrate the importance of the PWA in educational reform during the 1930s and their role in the increase in educational facilities during the Depression in Nashville.

³¹ Ibid, 19-20.

³² Orr, 77-78.

³³ Tyson, 129-130.

³⁴ Ibid, 130.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 12

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 13

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

West End High School is located at 3529 West End Avenue in Nashville, Tennessee. The parcel identification number is 10409024400 on Davidson County tax records. The nominated property includes approximately 12.7 acres of this parcel. Bowling Avenue forms the western boundary of the nominated property. The southern boundary is formed by the parcel boundary. Elmington Avenue forms the western boundary and Elmington Park forms the northern boundary.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property of 12.7 acres forms the historic boundaries of the property. The Nashville Board of Education acquired this property in 1936 and the boundaries remain the same presently.

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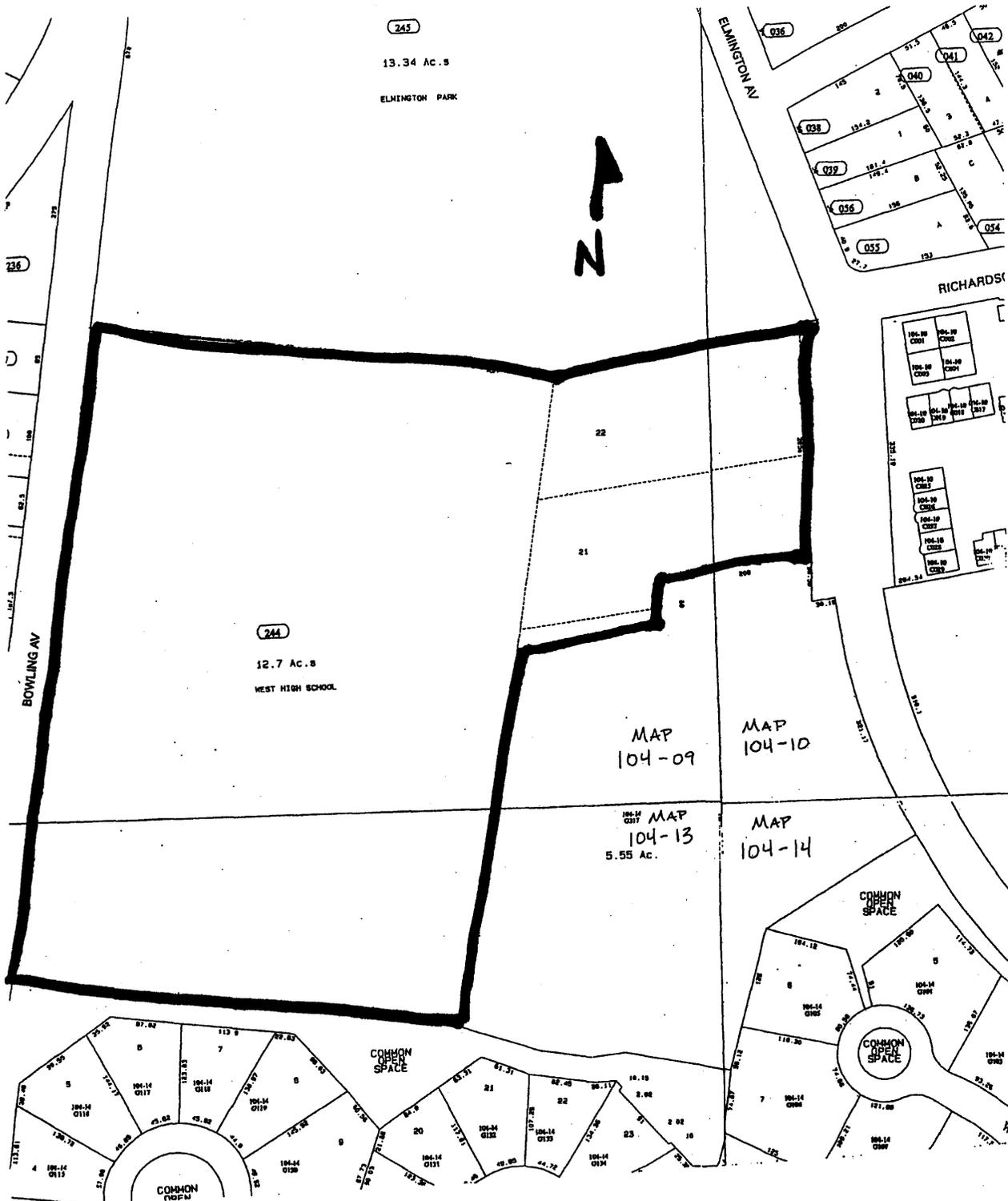
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 14

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

Davidson County Tax Maps

Scale: 1" = 160'



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 15

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

West End High School
Davidson County, Tennessee

Photographers: Blythe Semmer, Gary Layda
Date: September, December 2002
Location of Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Rd.
Nashville, TN 37243-0442

1. West End High School, façade
facing south
2. West End High School, façade
facing south
3. West End High School, west elevation
facing east
4. West End High School, west elevation
facing east
5. West End High School, classroom wing and auditorium
facing northeast
6. West End High School, auditorium and gymnasium, west elevation
facing east
7. West End High School, south elevation
facing north
8. West End High School, east elevation
facing west
9. West End High School, first floor interior, entry hall
facing south
10. West End High School, first floor interior, entry hall
facing north
11. West End High School, interior, auditorium
facing southwest
12. West End High School, interior, auditorium
facing north
13. West End High School, interior, gymnasium arched opening
facing southwest

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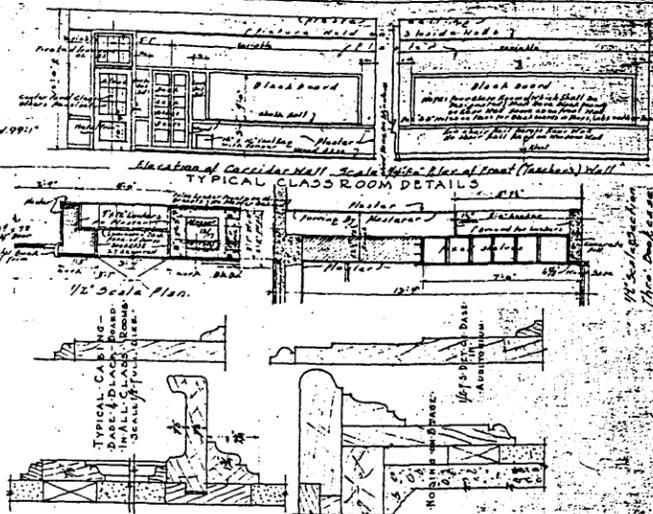
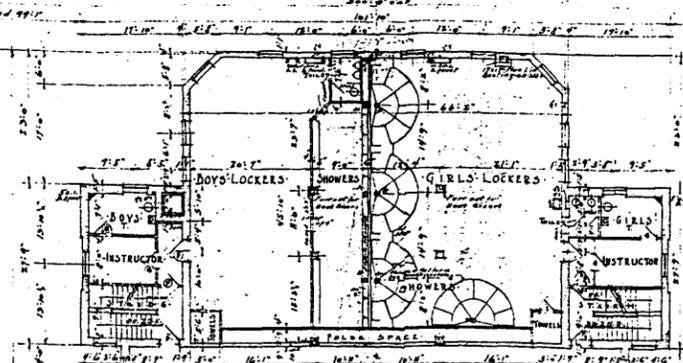
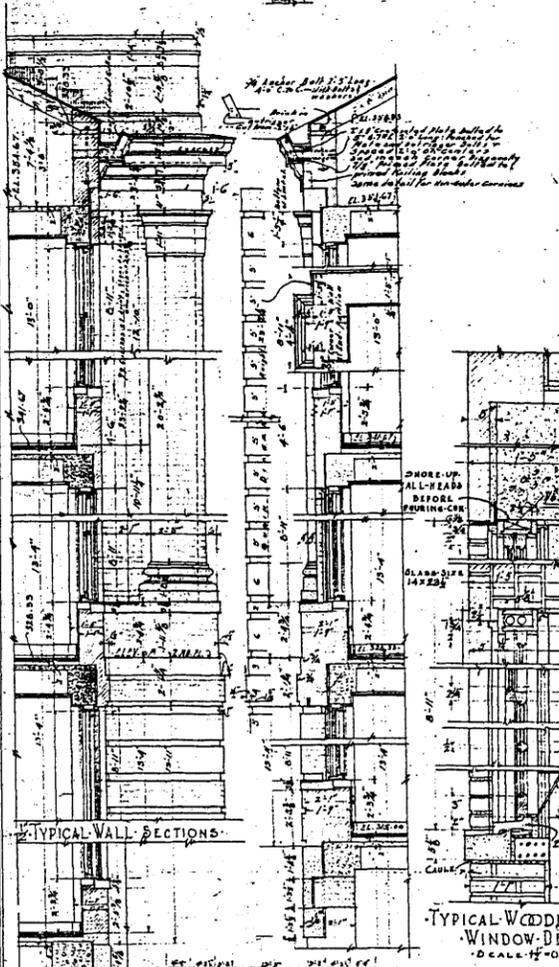
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 16

West End High School
Davidson County, TN

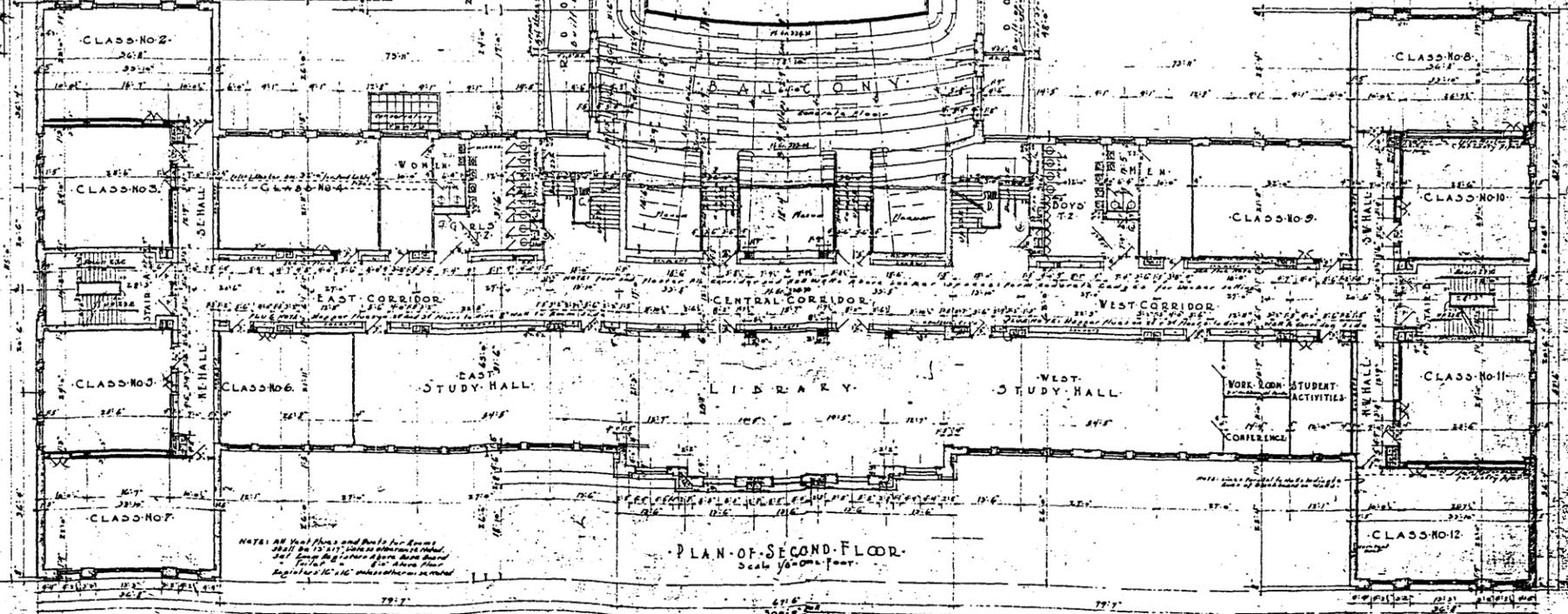
14. West End High School, interior, stairwell
facing west
15. West End High School, third floor interior, corridor
facing east
16. West End High School, third floor interior, classroom door
facing north
17. West End High School, third floor interior, typical classroom
facing northeast
18. West End High School, third floor interior, girls' restroom
facing south
19. West End High School, library interior
facing west
20. West End High School, football field and stadium
facing south

Cross Section D-D
 Section of Stone Water Table in
 Relation to Foundation Below and notes on floor.

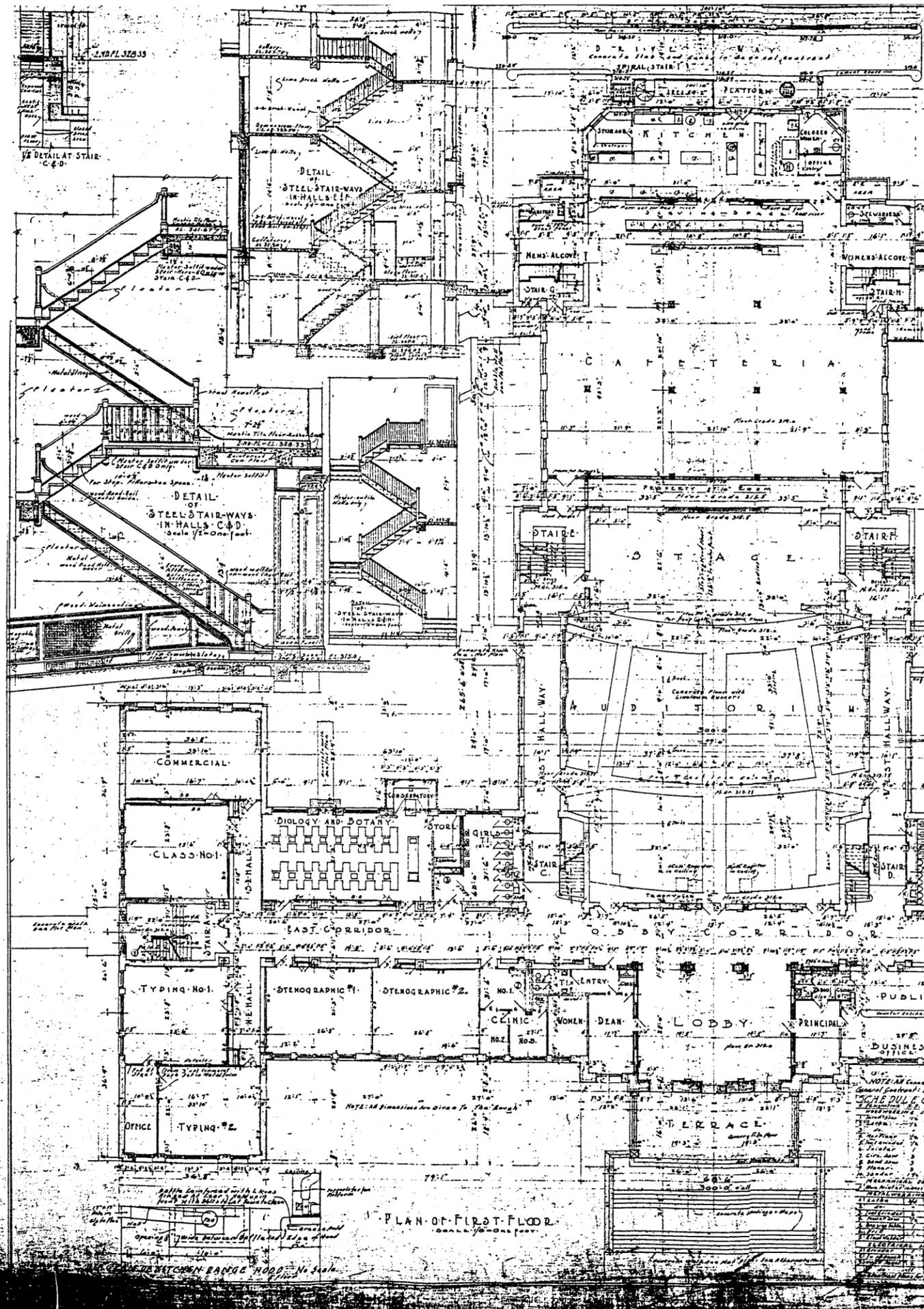


FINISHING SCHEDULE FOR SECOND FLOOR

ROOM	FLOOR	TRIM	WALLS	CEILING	PAINT	GLASS	IRONING	MEALS	STAIRS	STREET
Class No. 2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 3	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 4	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 5	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 6	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 7	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 8	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 9	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 10	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 11	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class No. 12	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 CONTRACT A



DOOR SCHEDULE: Symbols are for Sign of Each Door. See Plans for Location. Symbols are for Sign of Each Door. See Plans for Location.

1. All doors shall be 2'-0" wide unless otherwise noted.
2. All doors shall be 6'-6" high unless otherwise noted.
3. All doors shall be 1/2" thick unless otherwise noted.
4. All doors shall be 1/2" thick unless otherwise noted.
5. All doors shall be 1/2" thick unless otherwise noted.
6. All doors shall be 1/2" thick unless otherwise noted.
7. All doors shall be 1/2" thick unless otherwise noted.
8. All doors shall be 1/2" thick unless otherwise noted.
9. All doors shall be 1/2" thick unless otherwise noted.
10. All doors shall be 1/2" thick unless otherwise noted.

NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	PRICE	TOTAL
1
2
3
4
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6
7
8
9
10

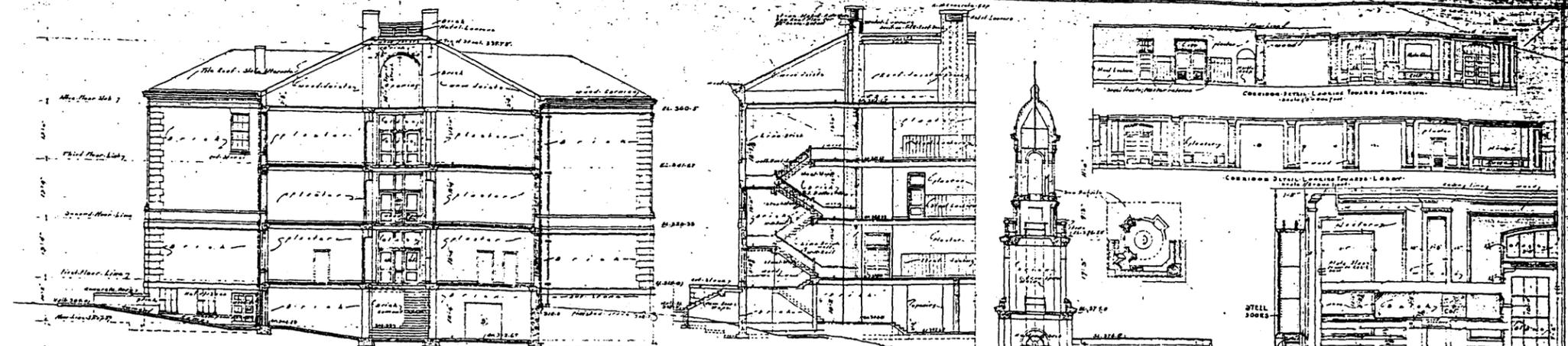
FINISHING SCHEDULE FOR FIRST FLOOR

ROOM	FLOOR	BASE	TRIM	WALLS	CEILING	PAINT	MECHANICAL	WORKING	STAIRS	STEPS	...
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SCHEDULE OF CONNECTIONS FOR SHOPS, ETC.

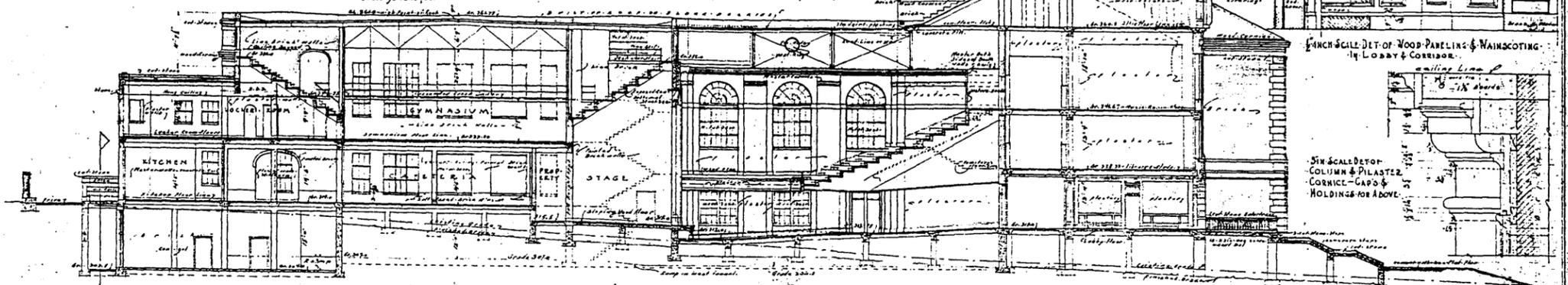
NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	PRICE	TOTAL
1
2
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10

PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

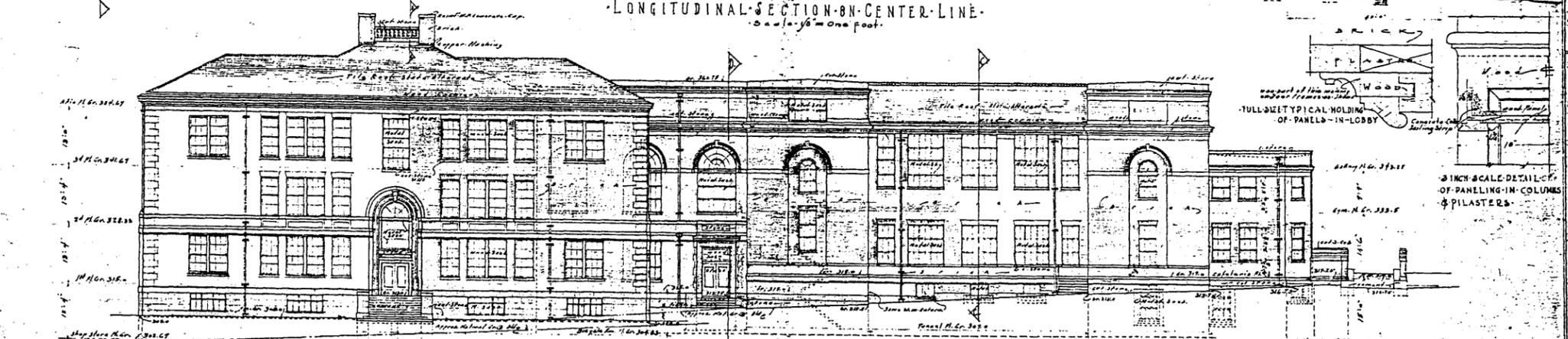


SECTIONAL ELEVATION ON LINE F-F
Scale 1/8" = One Foot

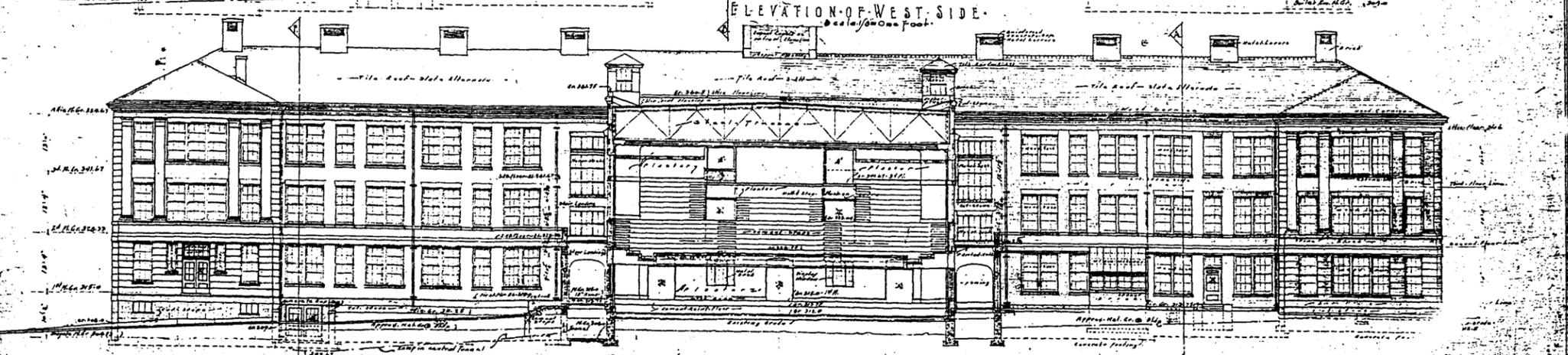
SECTION ON LINE G-G
Scale 1/8" = One Foot



LONGITUDINAL SECTION ON CENTER LINE
Scale 1/8" = One Foot



ELEVATION OF WEST SIDE
Scale 1/8" = One Foot



SECTIONAL ELEVATION ON LINE B-B
Scale 1/8" = One Foot

FINISH SCALE DET. OF WOOD PANELING & WAINSCOTING
in Lobby & Corridor

SIX SCALE DET. OF
COLUMN & PILASTER
CORNICEL CAPS &
HOLDINGS FOR ABOVE

BRICK
WOOD
TULLY TYPICAL HOLDING
OF PANELS IN LOBBY

SIX SCALE DETAIL OF
OF PANELING IN COLUMNS
& PILASTERS

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING
FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF CITY OF NASHVILLE, TENN.
DONALD V. SOUTHGATE ARCHT.
1916 NASHVILLE, TENN.

