

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 30 1976  
DATE ENTERED MAY 19 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  \* \* United States Arsenal *HABS*  
AND/OR COMMON Arsenal Technical High School (Tech High School)

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1500 East Michigan Street  
CITY, TOWN Indianapolis VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11  
STATE Indiana CODE 18 COUNTY Marion CODE 097

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME City of Indianapolis, Board of School Commissioners  
STREET & NUMBER 120 East Walnut Street  
CITY, TOWN Indianapolis VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE Indiana

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City-County Building  
STREET & NUMBER Delaware and Market Streets  
CITY, TOWN Indianapolis STATE Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey HABS Ind. 65  
DATE Summer 1970 and 1971  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress--Collection of Historic American Buildings Survey  
CITY, TOWN Washington, D. C. STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Congress passed an act on July 11, 1862, authorizing a permanent Indianapolis arsenal. This 75-acre site was selected in March 1863, and five months later thirty-one-year-old Captain Thomas J. Treadwell was assigned the awesome task of developing the project. Construction was begun almost immediately on the first of nine buildings -- the storehouse, known as the Arsenal. Before being transferred in February of 1864, Treadwell wrote a series of sixty-two letters to the Chief of Ordnance, General James W. Ripley, in Washington, D.C. A Scotsman, George Graham, laid out the landscape plans, and some of his work can still be admired today. Only two of the remaining six arsenal buildings will be described in detail.

The ARSENAL BUILDING is massive, monumental, rectangular (63' x 173') three-story building with full basement; is constructed of warm-orange-colored pressed bricks and Vernon, Indiana, limestone trim on a high rusticated stone base. (Many of the bricks were made on the grounds.) The main block, three bays by eleven bays, is defined by a simple stone frieze and cornice capped with a low hipped roof. A three-story wing projects from the center of the north (long) elevation and has a gable roof. A six-story brick tower with paired limestone pilasters on each face projects from the center of the south elevation (facade). The tower is thirty-five feet wide and projects thirty-two feet. The rusticated base of huge grey limestone blocks is articulated by a series of punched windows. The limestone base forms a base for the brick bearing walls above. The second register is defined by a smooth band course of limestone. The punched, double-hung windows in the three-story block are defined by stone surrounds; the lintels have massive keystones. Jamb members are one piece but have incised joints to give the appearance of three units. The frieze of limestone has triple rounded ornaments centered over the windows. The finely preserved exterior appears not to have been appreciably altered. Only the interior has undergone major alterations. Prior to the 1932 remodeling, the internal structural system of the main block was iron columns and beams with wood floors supported by wood joists partitions of which there were few of wood construction. In 1932 a pan joist concrete floor system replaced the original internal floor system. The keystone of the south doorway of the tower has the date 1865. Semi-circular stone arches on pilasters are centered on the three projecting faces of the tower, and now define pairs of doors with glass lights, side lights, and fan-shaped glazed transoms. Formerly, this area was open, allowing horse-drawn wagons to pass through for loading and unloading. The existing structural system of the upper floors of the tower (fourth, fifth, and sixth levels) appears to be the original construction and has been only slightly modified. A mechanical hoist is located at the fifth level of the tower and was used during the army occupancy to raise and lower supplies in the arsenal. At the sixth level of the tower is the clock mechanism which is in good condition; it is connected by shafts and gears to the three clock faces of the tower. The clock, with faces six feet in diameter, was originally installed July 6, 1867. It was damaged by a lightning fire in August 1973; full restoration was done and rededication followed in May 1974. A huge bell bearing the year 1867 is mounted on top of the tower.

(See continuation sheet)

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this large, inner-city district is many fold as shown by its transition from a military arsenal to a vibrant "Arsenal of Education." As described by the first principal, Milo H. Stuart: "It has kept within its heart, guns, munitions, dark secrets of war; but now within its bosom are only fair and peaceable dreams."

The Arsenal Building is without question the most significant military structure in Indianapolis and certainly one of the most important historic military buildings in Indiana. The design of the building is vaguely attributed to Isaac Hodgson by Lee Burns in Early Architects and Builders of Indiana. Hodgson was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1826 and came to the United States in 1848. He had extensive architectural practice in Indiana, designing courthouses at Bartholomew County, Columbus; Henry County, New Castle; Morgan County, Martinsville; and others. Thus, he became one of the most eminent architects in Indiana during the Nineteenth Century. The building has a magnificent monumental scale and is somewhat reminiscent of Le doux, the Eighteenth Century French architect.

During the forty years the United States government maintained the arsenal here (1863-1903), thirteen commandants were in charge. On November 7, 1865, the first six enlisted men arrived. A contingent of fifty soldiers was constantly maintained, and the arsenal was used principally for storing heavy artillery, lighter arms, and a limited amount of munitions. At one time one hundred thousand rifles were stored on the second and third floors of the Arsenal Building. During the Spanish-American War, this arsenal was raised from third to first class, and haversacks and knapsacks were made in the shops and artillery building. On March 27, 1903, the property was sold at public auction. The last sunrise gun was fired on April 3, 1903, marking the abandonment of the arsenal. Then the educators moved in!

A trade school, Winona Technical Institute, was established on November 8, 1904. However, it went into bankruptcy in March 1910. Because citizens had raised the money to purchase the property, a legal battle ensued. Desperately needing additional facilities for expansion and in spite of the litigation proceedings, Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners requested the use of the property in order to establish a third high school. Under the leadership of Milo H. Stuart, Arsenal Technical High School was opened on faith with 183 students and 8 teachers on September 11, 1912. The uncertainty of the school's continuation was finally ended on May 22, 1916. On that

(See continuation sheet, page 2)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 75.14 + 4.3

UTM REFERENCES

NW <sup>D</sup>	A	1,6	57,47,20 <sup>040</sup>	4,40,36,80 <sup>20</sup>	NE <sup>A</sup>	B	1,6	57,44,5,0	4,40,36,80 <sup>20</sup>
SW <sup>C</sup>	C	1,6	57,47,20 <sup>060</sup>	4,40,29,00 <sup>840</sup>	SE <sup>B</sup>	D	1,6	57,44,5,0	4,40,29,00 <sup>850</sup>
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

- On the north: East Tenth Street
- On the south: East Michigan Street
- On the east: Rear property line of lots along west side of West Drive  
Woodruff Place
- On the west: Oriental Street

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Miss Anna E. Parker (teacher), assisted by H. Roll McLaughlin and Dave Hermansen for James Associates

ORGANIZATION: Arsenal Technical High School  
 DATE: January 1976  
 STREET & NUMBER: 1500 East Michigan Street  
 TELEPHONE: (317) 632-9574  
 CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis  
 STATE: Indiana 46201

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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.

*[Signature]*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE: Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer  
 DATE: January 27, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE: 5/19/76
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST: <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE: 5-19-76
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Description    ITEM NUMBER    7    PAGE    2

The small GUARD HOUSE, completed in February 1872, stands just inside the main entrance on Michigan Street. Its stone foundation extends three feet above grade and is capped with a water table. The red, hand-made bricks are laid in running bond with intermittent header, irregularly spaced. Windows and doors have arched tops trimmed with stone laid in a key pattern surrounding the arches. The sash are wood, double-hung, divided four over four. The stone sills are supported by stone brackets. The ornamental box-type cornice is supported by wood brackets, spaced approximately 3½' on center in pairs. The slate roof has a built-in-type gutter. The small front porch is constructed of and detailed in wood consistent with arches in windows and doors. However, the porch floor is slab stone. One can still view the cold, damp, basement cells where military offenders were quartered.

The stately, three-story, brick WEST RESIDENCE, which officers occupied, was erected in November 1870.

The two-story brick BARN, with a grade basement, was completed in September 1869.

The BARRACKS, a two-story brick building which housed soldiers, was erected in 1867.

In December 1866 the MAGAZINE, with walls two and one-half feet thick, was erected with bricks made from clay on the grounds. The many chimneys provided a type of air condition to keep the powder dry.

Many dreamed of developing the campus and school into the most outstanding comprehensive secondary institution in the nation. A fifty-year master plan for the physical development was presented in 1918 by the New York architect, H. Van Buren Magonigle. Meanwhile, because of increased enrollment, the Annex was completed in the spring of 1917. However, it was razed to construct MORGAN HALL for expanding vocational training and Career Center offices. Allen & Kelley designed the structure which was completed in 1958.

In 1919-21 the three-story "Main" brick classroom building was erected. Architects were Vonnegut, Bohn, and Mueller. Wings were added in 1928, and the East Residence (having the reverse floor plan of the West Residence) was razed. Families of the Arsenal's officers had formerly lived there. On May 21, 1943, the Main was renamed TREADWELL HALL, honoring the Arsenal's first commandant, Captain Thomas J. Treadwell.

The boys' gymnasium, seating 4000, was completed in 1929.

(See other side)

STUART HALL, honoring the school's founder and first principal, was completed in 1940. Pierre & Wright were the architects of this three-story brick classroom building.

When the new CAFETERIA-MUSIC BUILDING was completed in 1966, the original Artillery Building was razed. Raymond Thompson, a Tech graduate with James Associates, designed this structure.

Currently, a ten-million-dollar construction project is taking place on the campus with the simultaneous erection of a 1500-seat auditorium; a Media Center; and a Health-Physical Education-Recreation Complex with an olympic-size indoor pool. Extensive remodeling of the boys' gymnasium and the old shop building are planned along with additional campus landscaping and beautification. Brother graduates of Tech, Raymond and Herbert Thompson of James Associates, are the architects of this final phase of the school's development.

On the north end of the campus, three elementary schools operate: Roberts School for crippled children; No. 101, a junior high school for seventh and eighth graders; and No. 74, originally housing a fresh-air school for lowered-vitality students. Now regular elementary as well as some special education classes are taught there. Regretfully, Tech's five-acre nature preserve of woodland, flowers, shrubs, and a spring was the site bulldozed for the construction of School No. 101 because citizens' ecological concern developed too late.

Joining the campus on the east is the unique residential area, originally conceived by James Woodruff in 1872. Woodruff Place, containing eighty acres, has been accepted into the National Registry of Historical Places.

Another National Registry entry -- Lockerbie Square, where the beloved Hoosier Poet James Whitcomb Riley lived -- is located not too far west of the campus as one goes toward the downtown area. Both of these inner-city neighborhoods are presently engaged in restoration projects, striving to recapture their pre-1900 atmosphere.

As a bicentennial project the school hopes to raise funds for the restoration of the West Residence and Guard House. Since the military originally occupied this site, and for years the Indianapolis Junior ROTC Office has been located here with cadets' uniforms being stored in the Magazine, it would be most appropriate to have part of the restored building used for the military office with a Civil War decor. Also, the school archives and artifacts would be housed in the proposed museum where special classes or individuals would meet for lecture and research purposes. Also, the basement would be divided into rooms for club and citizen-group meetings.

The restored Guard House might serve as a tourist information center having postal cards and souvenirs for sale. By the way, a similar small building, erected in June 1867, stood in the center of the campus quadrangle and served as the school's first office before being destroyed by fire August 7, 1921. A rest area with an appropriate sculpture is being planned to mark that original site.

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 2

date the Supreme Court of Indiana upheld a Circuit Court's decision and ruled that the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis was to hold title to the property forever in trust for the purpose of maintaining an arts and trade school.

Being a great inner-city, comprehensive secondary school with a present enrollment of 5000, Tech is truly proud of its glorious heritage, its dynamic present, and most-promising future. This historical site is important since it is one of the very few large open spaces in that part of the city. The node site has numerous large trees and a considerable amount of lower entourage, much of which is of historic value.

In September 1945, Better Homes and Gardens magazine published a feature article "Is This The School Of Tomorrow?" Well, that "tomorrow" is here now, and the school is still having a profound impact on education. With the implementation of many innovative approaches, the school is constantly seeking solutions to old as well as new problems

In the fall of 1916 evening school was started; summer school began in 1924.

From its founding, the school has attracted excellent administrators and teachers. Many of them became giant national leaders in education and several authored books of renown.

Six of the nine original United States Arsenal buildings are still being used for educational and training purposes. The broad curriculum includes academic, technical, and vocational subjects. Approximately fifty thousand students have graduated during the past six decades. The peak enrollment of 7,895 students with 279 teachers was reached in 1937-38. Some graduates have chosen to continue their formal education; others began working immediately with skills learned. All types of employment have beckoned Tech graduates and former students who have contributed greatly to the professional, business, and cultural growth of our city and other areas throughout the world.

Following is a very short list of outstanding graduates with a brief description:

Robert Indiana -- the artist whose "LOVE" sculpture inspired the issuance of the 8¢ "LOVE" postage stamp.

Hector García -- the creator of Indiana's Bicentennial Medal which was one of the twenty state medals selected to be minted in gold by Danbury mint.

(See other side)

Harry E. Wood, Jr. -- artist whose portrait of General Santa Yana is in the Smithsonian Institute.

Max S. Norris, M.D. -- Chairman, Indianapolis Bicentennial Commission.

Kenneth Keene -- Vice-Chairman Indianapolis Bicentennial Commission (his parents lived in the West Residence).

Charles A. Bonsett, M.D. -- prominent neurologist.

Nathaniel Alexander Owings -- world renowned architect who was a founding partner of Skidmore, Owings, Merrill of Chicago -- the largest and most prolific of architectural firms.

Arthur C. Frantzreb -- Chairman of Frantzreb, Pray, Ferner and Thompson, Inc. -- a nationally known firm of fund raisers in Arlington, Virginia.

Earl C. Townsend -- outstanding attorney with national reputation, fraternity brother and room mate of President Ford.

Clifford Wilson -- retired Negro researcher at Eli Lilly and Company.

Robert J. Taylor -- Urban League officer.

Joseph and Marriane -- authors of Desperate Hours, which was made into a movie.

Corporation executives:

Bernard Schotters - Indianapolis Power and Light

John Arbuckle - Indiana Bell Telephone Company

Gene Turner - Stark & Wetzel Foods

"Bud" Hook - Hook Drugs

Robert Book - Elanco Products, Eli Lilly and Company

Michael DeFabis - recently Deputy Mayor; Preston and Safeway Foods

Thomas and Peter Reilly - Reilly Tar Products

Dr. Dean Evans - recently Superintendent of Washington Township Schools;  
Lilly Endowment Officer

Robert Mathews - realtor; former Indiana Chairman of Republican Party

Civic leaders and patrons of art:

Mrs. Howard Caldwell - mother of former Mayor Lugar (Bertha Greene Lugar)

Mrs. Charles J. Lynn - widow of Eli Lilly executive (Dorothy Black)

Mrs. Eugene Thornburgh - promoter of Francis Bellamy Flag Award presentation (Margaret Markey)

Through the years, individual students as well as the school have received numerous national and local awards and honors such as:

Francis Bellamy Flag Award - October 12, 1948

Freedoms Foundation recognitions

The Arsenal Cannon newspaper and yearbook receive high ratings

ROTC honor ratings

Since the military originally developed this historic site, one would like to finish this nomination section with a military touch of significance. Many faculty members, students, and graduates served in World Wars I and II and the Korean Conflict. Following World War II, Tech operated a separate school for large numbers of veterans in order for them to complete graduation requirements.

(See continuation sheet, page 4)



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Other items of military interest:

Seaman First Class Frank Ehrmantraut, Jr., made the supreme sacrifice at Pearl Harbor.

Congressional Medal of Honor awarded summer of 1948 posthumously to Private William D. McGee, Jr., who died March 18, 1945, at Mulheim, Germany.

John Flick, M.D., was the ophthalmologist selected by the army to check effect of Hiroshima atomic bombing on survivors' vision

Distinguished Service Cross awarded posthumously February 29, 1952, to PFC Robert T. Copple, missing in action in Korea from April 23, 1951

General Allison Maxwell headed Air National Guard of Indiana

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CONTINUATION SHEET References ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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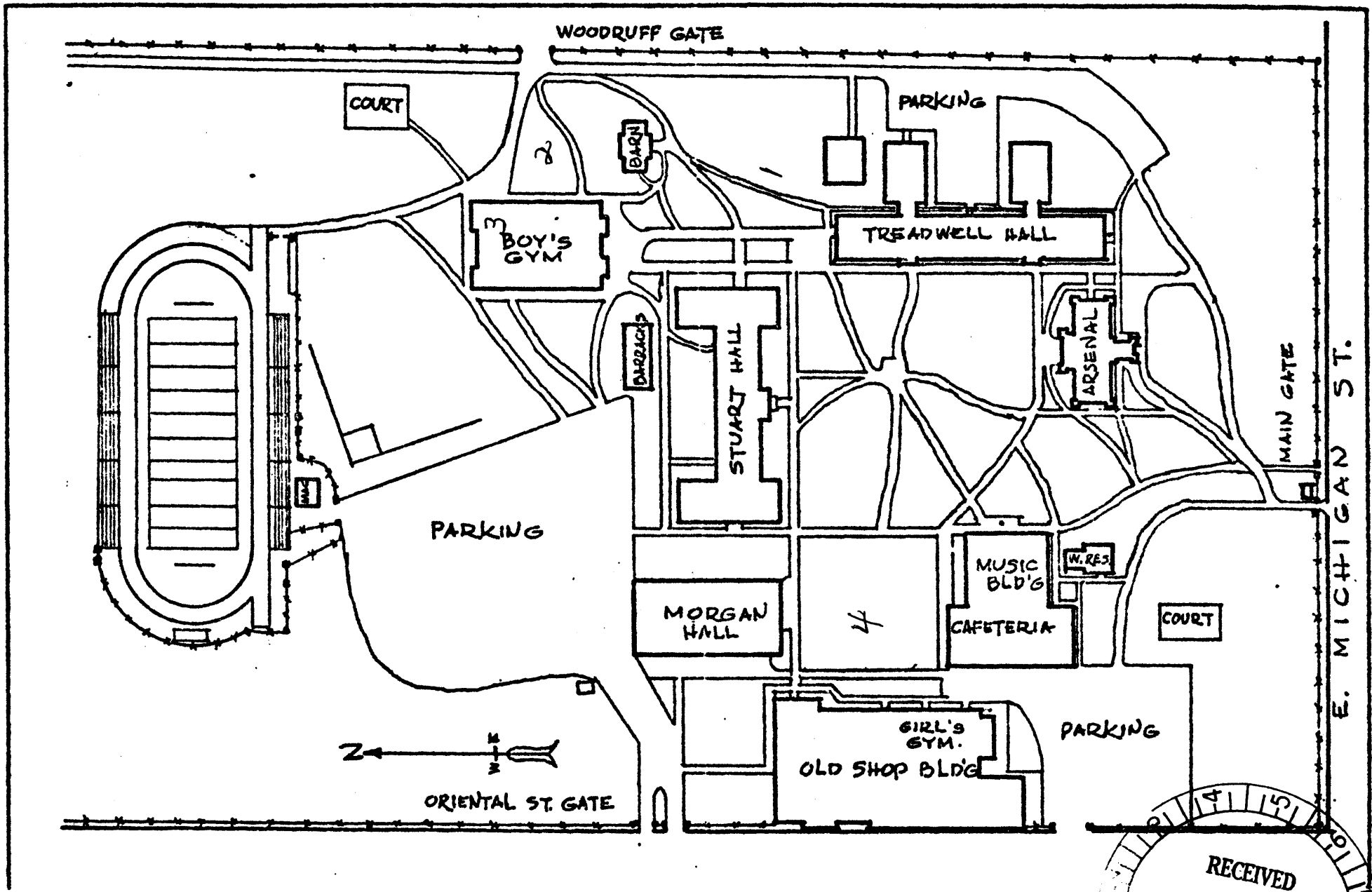
(See other side)

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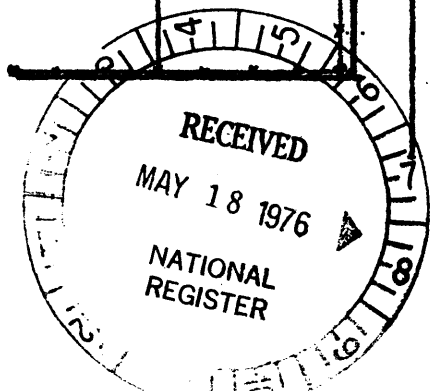
New construction in progress on the Arsenal  
Technical School campus

1. New Media Center Building
2. Girls Physical Education Building
3. Remodeling of Boys' Gym
4. New Auditorium Building





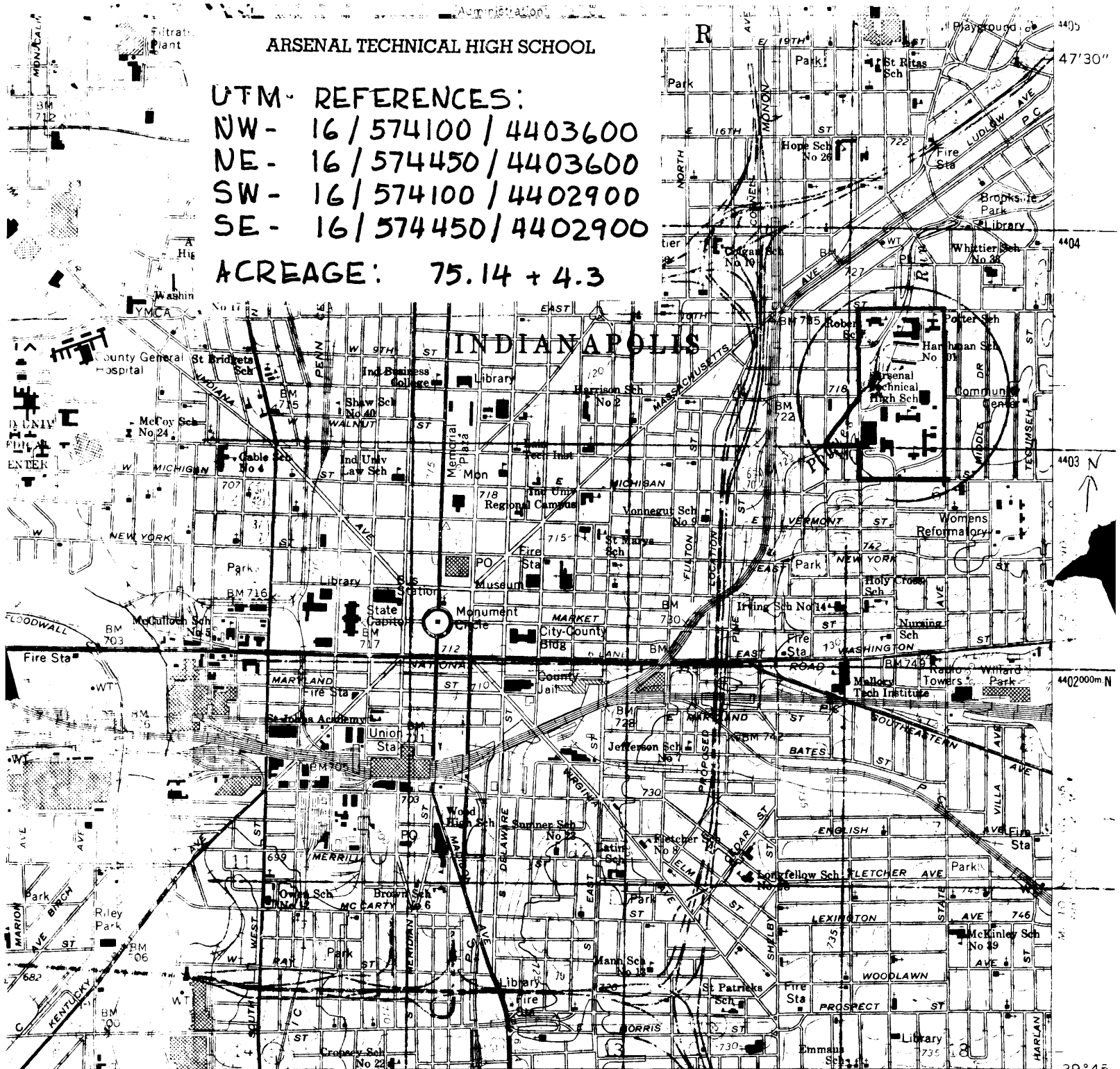
ARSENAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS  
 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



ARSENAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

UTM REFERENCES:  
 NW - 16 / 574100 / 4403600  
 NE - 16 / 574450 / 4403600  
 SW - 16 / 574100 / 4402900  
 SE - 16 / 574450 / 4402900

ACREAGE: 75.14 + 4.3



39°45' 86°07'30" N  
 INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON D C — 1970  
 3.5 MI. TO CENTER PATH 48E R 3E K 4E 574000m E

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  
 Light-duty road, all weather improved surface  
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

INDIANAPOLIS WEST, IND.

N3945—W8607.5/7.5

1967

AMS 3763 I SW—SERIES V851

COY STANDARDS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
 IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST