

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

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

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

**1. Name**

historic Fall School

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 1116 8th Avenue South      not for publication

city, town Nashville      vicinity of      congressional district Fifth

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

street & number Metropolitan Courthouse, Court Square

city, town Nashville      vicinity of      state Tennessee 37201

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register's Office, Davidson County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Nashville      vicinity of      state Tennessee 37201

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes      no

date July 1979      federal  state      county      local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town 4721 Trousdale Drive, Nashville      vicinity of      state Tennessee 37220

## 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

Built in 1898, the original Fall School building reflects the turn of architectural fashion away from Victorian exotica toward designs based on Classical and Renaissance models. The school is located on the northeast corner of Eighth Avenue, South, and Chestnut Street. ✓

Somewhat reminiscent of Palladian designs, the bisymmetrical plan arranges a square classroom in each corner around an octagonal, three-story light well. A pedimented bay projects from the center of each facade of the square building with entrances leading to the central octagonal space. The building's hip roof rises to an octagonal glass cupola over the light well.

Exterior detailing and materials are reminiscent of earlier, Victorian buildings. Similar dark-red brick and matching mortar windows, and cast terra cotta decorative pieces had been used on Nashville buildings for twenty preceding years. The central plan, symmetrical facades, string courses and pilasters between the second floor windows help to create the overall Renaissance-inspired effect.

The interior is largely unremarkable functional school building construction with the exception of a fountain at the center of the light well on the first floor. The bronze fountain sculpture is composed of Renaissance nautical motifs--sea serpents, shells, and a putto. The surrounding flooring is of glass blocks which admit light to the basement space below.

The classroom wing, added to the rear in 1926, is not wholly sympathetic to the original building but is not seriously distracting. The rectangular flat-roofed addition is visually tied to the original through the use of similar brick and classical decorative motifs in stone.

## 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/<br>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 1898

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fall School is the only pre-1900 public school building of the old city school system still remaining in Nashville. It was constructed in 1898 to serve a developing neighborhood and was in continuous use as an elementary school from that time until 1970. The school was named for P. S. Fall, a prominent Nashville businessman who had served as a member of the Nashville Board of Education.

With its classical decorative details and bisymmetrical plan, Fall School was not unlike other schools built at the turn of the century. Its survival has made it unique. In addition, its interior, with atrium and fountain, is distinctive.

The functional design was also unusual. Until the end of the nineteenth century, the prevailing design for city schools had been the study hall plan, in which children moved from study hall to recitation rooms throughout the day. Fall School was the first school built in Nashville in a new design, the room plan. In this plan, individual rooms were used by classes throughout the day for both recitation and study.

In 1926, more space was needed, and a large addition was constructed at the rear of the original structure. By the 1960s, design and population trends had shifted, and the building at Eighth Avenue, South, and Chestnut Street was no longer needed as an elementary school. A merger in 1970 resulted in Fall-Hamilton School, located at 510 Wedgewood.

Since its phasing out as a school, the Fall School building has housed the Metropolitan Action Commission. That agency will move to other quarters in August, 1979.

As the oldest public school building in the city, Fall School has long contributed visually to an area that includes three National Register properties: Fort Negley, the Eighth Avenue, South Reservoir, and Robincroft. It stands on Eighth Avenue, South, a major thoroughfare which follows the route of the old Franklin Turnpike. The area, formerly an urban neighborhood, has become primarily commercial, with some public housing. Fall School provides an important landmark for that area.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Education Research Services, Inc. A Comprehensive Survey of Metro School System of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee. White Plains; N.Y. 1963.  
 Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Public Schools. A Bicentennial Chronicle, Nashville 1976.

## 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 1.4  
 Quadrangle name Nashville West, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

|      |         |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---------|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 6       | 5 | 1 | 9        | 9 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

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| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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G 

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| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

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| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is an irregular-shaped tract which contains 1.4 acres. The boundary of the Fall School property is shown as the red line on the accompanying map which is pages 714 and 718 of the Real Estate Atlas of Davidson County, Tennessee, 10th edition, 1976 and

### 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 David Paine and Ann Reynolds

organization Metropolitan Historical Commission

date July 1979

street & number Second Avenue North at Broadway

telephone (615) 259-5027

city or town Nashville

state Tennessee 37201

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Herbert E. Hays*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 10/2/79

For HCRS use only

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

*Sally G. Deane*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 12/19/79

Attest: *Beth Grosvenor*  
 Chief of Registration

date 12/11/79

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| FOR HCRS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED          | OCT 10 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED      | DEC 19      |

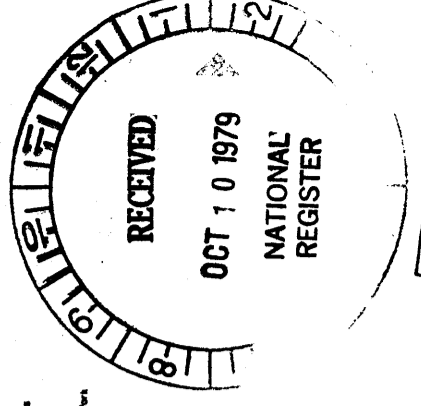
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

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drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch. This is the entire tract owned by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

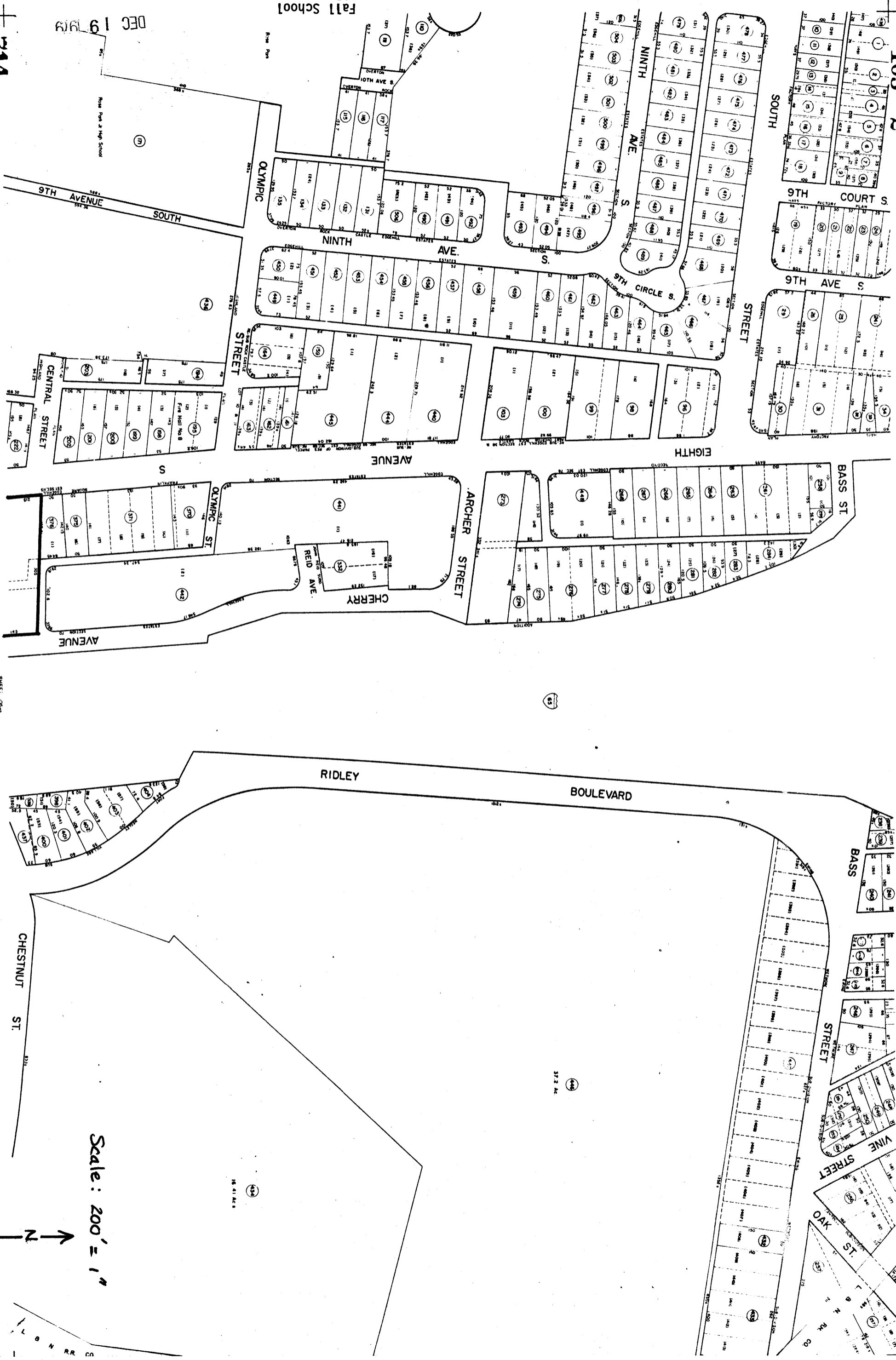


Fall School  
1116 Eighth Avenue, South,  
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

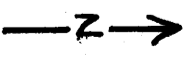
DEC 19 1919

SHEET 105-

714



Scale: 200' = 1"

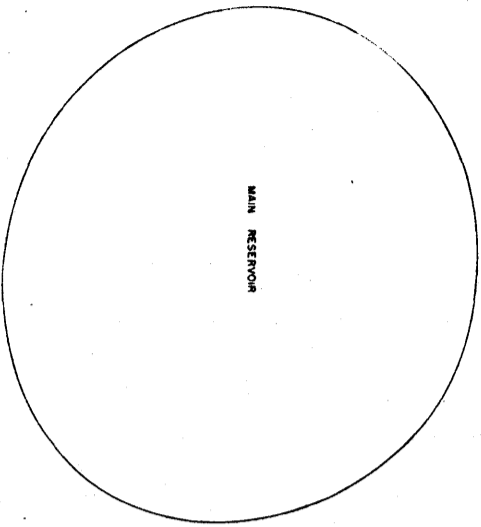
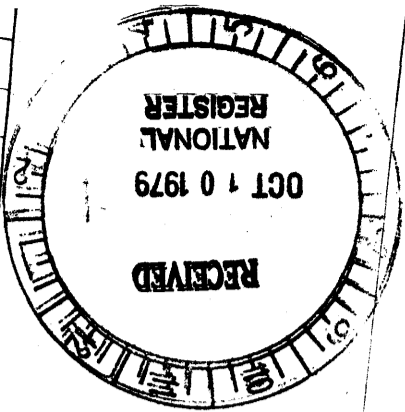


SHEET 02-1

Fall School 1116 Eighth Avenue, South Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

DEC 19 1979

718



16.96 AC. S. City of Nashville



Scale: 200' = 1"

