

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property SIMMS SCHOOL

historic name: SIMMS SCHOOL

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: 1680 Eleventh Avenue not for publication: N/A
city/town: Huntington vicinity: N/A
state code: WV county: Cabell code: 011 zip code: 25703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally.

(See continuation sheet.)

William G. ...
Signature of Certifying Official

3/11/97
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

Date _____

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 this 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

Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<u>B. ...</u>	<u>5/12/97</u>

 other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	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)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: Elementary School

Domestic: Multiple Dwelling

Elderly Housing

Education: Headstart Program

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and Early 20th Century

Revivals: Neoclassical

Foundation Concrete

Walls Wire Brick

Roof Rubber

Other Limestone, Terra Cotta

Narrative Description

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

Simms School
Name of Property

Cabell County, WV
County and State

=====
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

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- 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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1919-1920

Simms School
Name of Property

Cabell County, WV
County and State

Significant Dates
1919-1920

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Bates, Richard M.

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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: _____

Simms School
Name of Property

Cabell County, WV
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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17 375490 4252485
Zone Easting Northing

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Richard J. Dixon, Director of Planning

Organization: City of Huntington Date: February 28, 1997

Street & Number: P.O. Box 1659 Telephone: 304/696-4438

City or Town: Huntington State: WV Zip: 25717

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **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)

Simms School
Name of Property

Cabell County, WV
County and State

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Property Owner
=====

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

Name: Fairfield West Community Gardens, Inc. (Rev. Larry Patterson, Pres.)

Street & Number: 1449 Tenth Avenue Telephone: 304/525-9178

City or Town: Huntington State: WV Zip: 25703
=====

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 listings. 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 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Simms School Cabell County, WV
Section number 7 Page 1

Simms School is located on Eleventh Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets in the Fairfield West Neighborhood of the City of Huntington, West Virginia. The neighborhood is composed predominately of single family residential housing with both brick and wood frame detached houses. The Simms School is a major feature in the neighborhood and was designed in the Neoclassical style by architect Richard Bates.

The nominated site contains two brick buildings: the contributing 1919-1920 Simms School, and the 1964 cafeteria-gymnasium. The original school building, dated 1899, is located on an adjacent lot. It is not being nominated at this time as it has a different owner. The topography is level with the buildings set back about 15 feet from the sidewalk, and backing up to a rear alley boundary. There are no significant landscape elements on the site.

The Simms School has a square plan, two stories in height with a center auditorium (two stories) surrounded by a circular corridor with classrooms on three sides. The facade is five (5) bays in length consisting of a large brick panel without fenestration; a small projecting element with single windows; a center colonnade with five (5) open bays; a matching small projecting element with single windows; and a matching large brick panel without fenestration.

The exterior of the building is a mottled brown-red wire brick. Each corner has projecting brick quoins, three courses in height. Large end panels on the facade are created by a row lock course, vertical running bond and soldier course. There is a limestone cornice above the brick panels with a limestone coping on top of the parapet. There are projecting brick panels on the sides of a center colonnade. These smaller panels are two stories in height with a single window on each floor in the center. There are stone sills and projecting stone lintels. The first floor windows have an entablature with a triangular pediment on top. The second floor windows have a limestone medallion in the center of the lintel. The limestone cornice is repeated on these smaller panels and there is a stone coping above forming a Scotia curve, a horizontal, and a half round in the center of the parapet.

The front entrance has a center colonnade with four (4) round limestone Doric columns capped with a limestone frieze and projecting cornice. The colonnade is five (5) bays wide and is open on the first floor with five multi-light doors with fanlights. The second floor has an open porch (which was closed for many years) with wood columns, a projecting wood cornice above a metal gutter, topped by a clay tile mansard roof. This is the only portion of the roof which is visible from grade level. The main roof is flat, covered with a rubberized roof membrane and concealed behind the brick parapet.

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Simms School Cabell County, WV
Section number 7 Page 2

The structure has a steel frame with concealed columns and beams. The foundation is poured concrete without a basement area. The first floor is a poured concrete slab on grade.

The most significant interior feature of the building is the center auditorium which is two stories in height and is open to the second floor hallway. A raised stage at the north end of the building has a large shallow arch covering the proscenium. Around the other three (3) sides of the auditorium are large flat arch openings with oak roll-up doors which enclose the auditorium from the outside corridor.

The sides and rear of the school building have large window openings for the classrooms. Each opening contains a ribbon of five (5) double-hung windows. The west side of the building has the 1964 cafeteria-gymnasium one-story addition with a glass and metal lobby connecting the two buildings. The addition has a square plan with the street side being faced in red brick, with a front loading dock, and three small multi-light window openings. The rear section is concrete block and housed the gym. Today the gym has been reconfigured into use as classrooms for a headstart program, and the cafeteria is still used to serve meals.

The Simms School building has been remodeled over the years and is currently being adapted through the tax credit program to elderly housing, with 20 apartment units. The school continues to be an intergal part of the community.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Simms School Cabell County, WV
Section number 8 Page 1

The Simms School is significant under Criteria C for Architecture as an outstanding local example of the Neoclassical style of architecture popular at the time of its construction in 1919-20. The building has a unique center limestone colonnade entrance, and open second story porch.

The school is a predominate feature of the Fairfield West neighborhood. Huntington was expanding in the early 20th century, with the growth of metal and glass industries, and the yards and shops for the railroads. The Fairfield West Neighborhood was laid out and developed in the 1920s, primarily of two story single family detached houses.

The original school was constructed on an adjacent lot in 1899. It was renamed in 1907, in honor of Henry Clay Simms a year after his death. Simms was a prominent Huntington attorney and senior member of the law firm of Simms and Enslow, known as a leading West Virginia law firm which represented the C&O Railroads interests in Huntington. He had also served on Huntington's first School Board in 1889. While this 1899 school building is still standing on an adjacent lot, it now has a separate owner.

In 1919, the school board authorized the Committee on Buildings and Grounds to purchase an additional lot for a \$4,740 expansion of Simms School. Records reflect the school board hired architect Richard M. Bates for the design of the building in 1920. Bates had moved to Huntington in the late teens and resided in the city until 1924. He is known to have worked in the Neoclassical style, designing several banks, schools and private residences.

Constructed of wire brick, the limestone details of the cornice, and window trim highlight the facade. The brickwork, including the quoins on the corners and panels courses are well proportioned. However, it is the central open colonnade and second story porch which are unique in this Neoclassical design. Several other schools built during this same time period in the city also have Neoclassical designs; but it is not known at this time if they were also completed by Bates (1887-1948).

The school site was further extended in 1964 with the construction of a cafeteria and gymnasium to the west side. Designed by architect Albert F. Tucker, it is a simple block plan with no elaborate details.

Simms School served the Fairfield West Neighborhood of Huntington as an elementary school for over 60 years. The fine Neoclassical details and unusual colonnade entrance makes it stand out from other schools built at that time.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Simms School _____ Cabell County, WV
Section number 9 Page 1

Deed Books, Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Cabell County Court House,
Huntington, West Virginia

Records of the Cabell County Board of Education, Huntington, West Virginia

Sanborn Maps. Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1954 update.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Simms School Cabell County, WV
Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description:

The property is located on Eleventh Avenue between Seventeenth Street and Minton Street. The boundary description is as follows: Beginning at a point on the northerly right-of-way line of Eleventh Street, a 50 ft. right-of-way, which is 117.10 feet west of its intersection with Seventeenth Street, a 50 ft. right-of-way; thence south $77^{\circ} 35'$ west a distance of 202.90 feet along the northerly right-of-way line of Eleventh Avenue to a point; thence north $12^{\circ} 25'$ west a distance of 125 feet along the property line separating lots 337 and 338 to its point of intersection with the southerly right-of-way line of an alley, a 15ft. right-of-way; thence north $77^{\circ} 35'$ east a distance of 2202.90 feet along the southern right-of-way of the alley to a point; thence south $12^{\circ} 25'$ east a distance of 125 feet to the point of beginning, containing roughly 0.58 acres.

The property contains lots 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, and a small portion of lot 343. See the attached survey map.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Simms School and the cafeteria/gymnasium addition.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Simms School Cabell County, WV
Section number PHOTO Page 1

Name: Simms School Building
Address: 1680 Eleventh Avenue
City: Huntington, West Virginia
County: Cabell County

Photographer: Richard J. Dixon
Katherine M. Jourdan

Date: July 1995/January 1997

Negatives: City of Huntington Department of Development
P.O. Box 1659
Huntington, WV 25717

WV SHPO Office

Photo 1 of 9: View of front or south facade
Camera looking northeast from Eleventh Avenue

Photo 2 of 9: Close-up of front colonnade
Camera looking north

Photo 3 of 9: Close-up of side panel to the west of colonnade
Camera looking northeast

Photo 4 of 9: Close-up of view of large brick panel
Camera looking northeast

Photo 5 of 9: Partial view of the west side elevation
Camera looking northeast

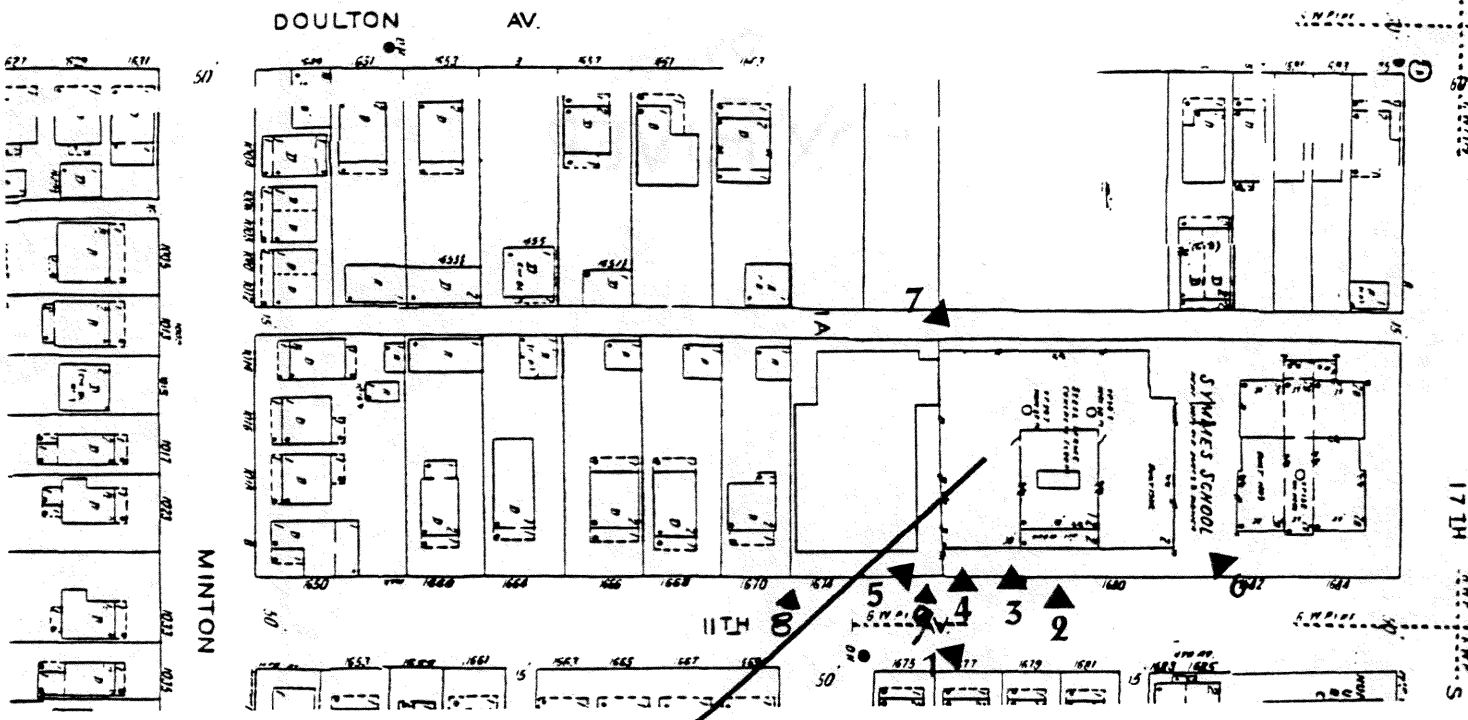
Photo 6 of 9: Partial view of the east side elevation
Camera looking northwest

Photo 7 of 9: View of the rear elevation
Looking southeast from the alley.

Photo 8 of 9: View of the cafeteria/gymnasium from Eleventh Avenue
Camera looking northeast

Photo 9 of 9: View of connection between the two buildings
Camera looking north

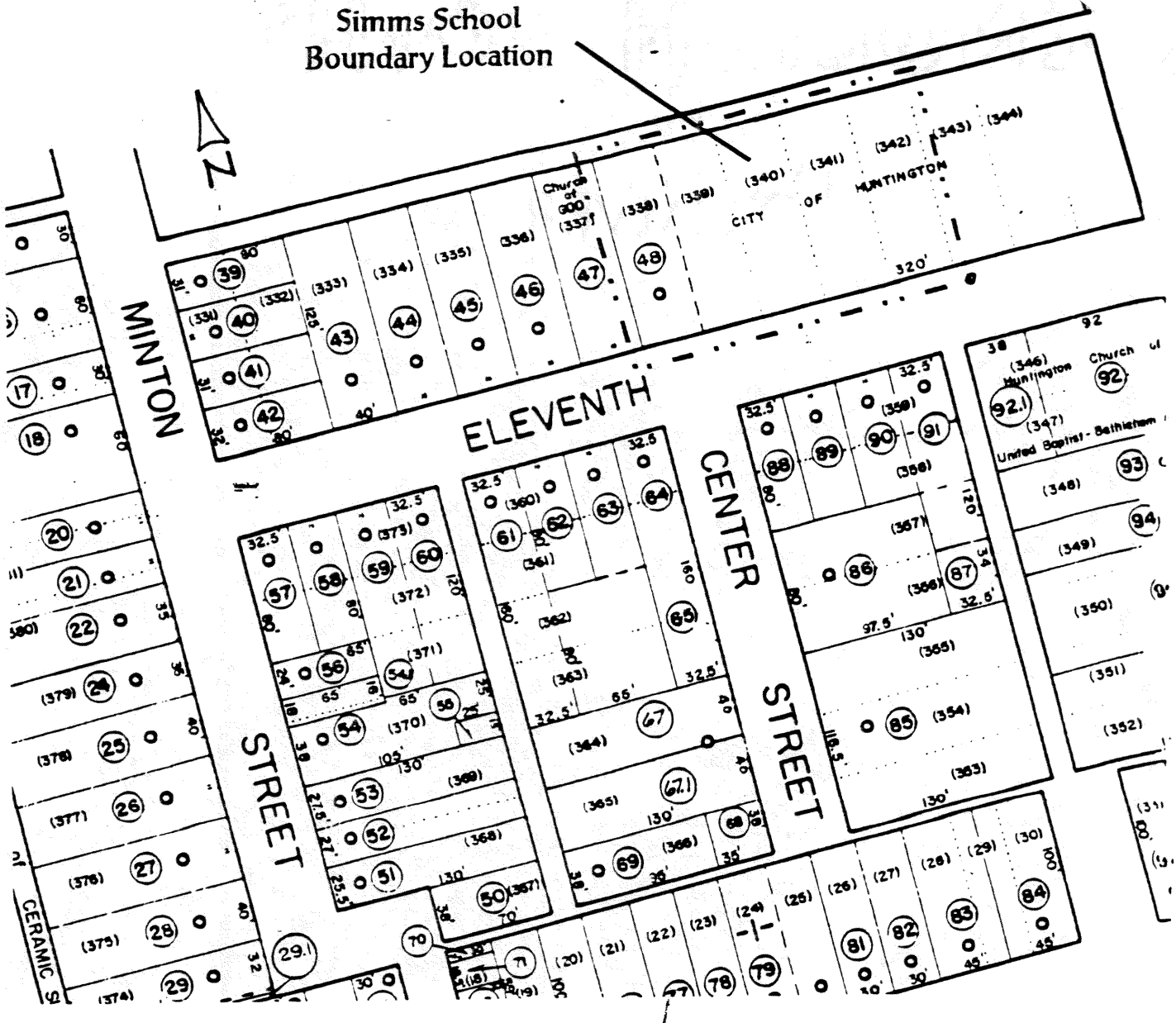
17th St
17th St



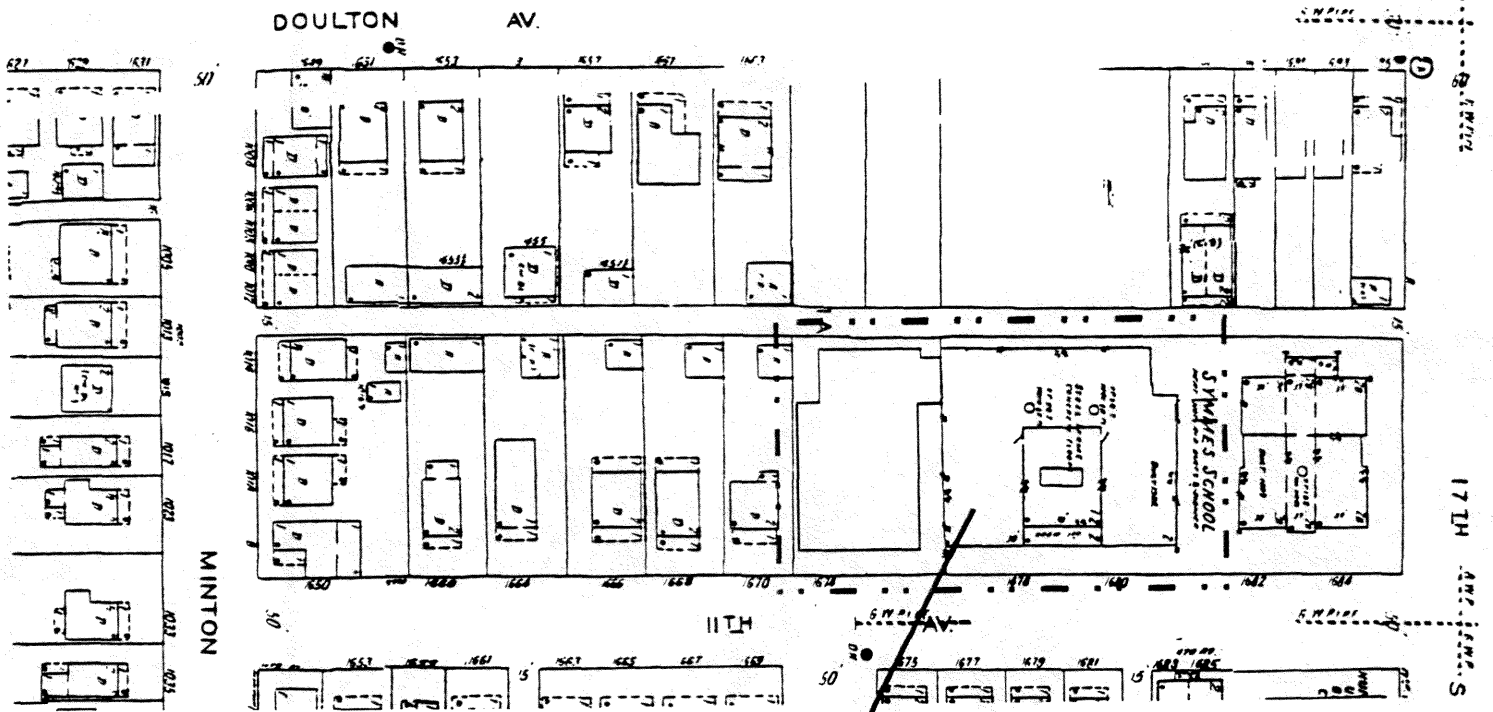
Simms School

Photo Location Map
Symmes (Simms) School
City of Huntington
Cabell County, West Virginia

Simms School
Boundary Location

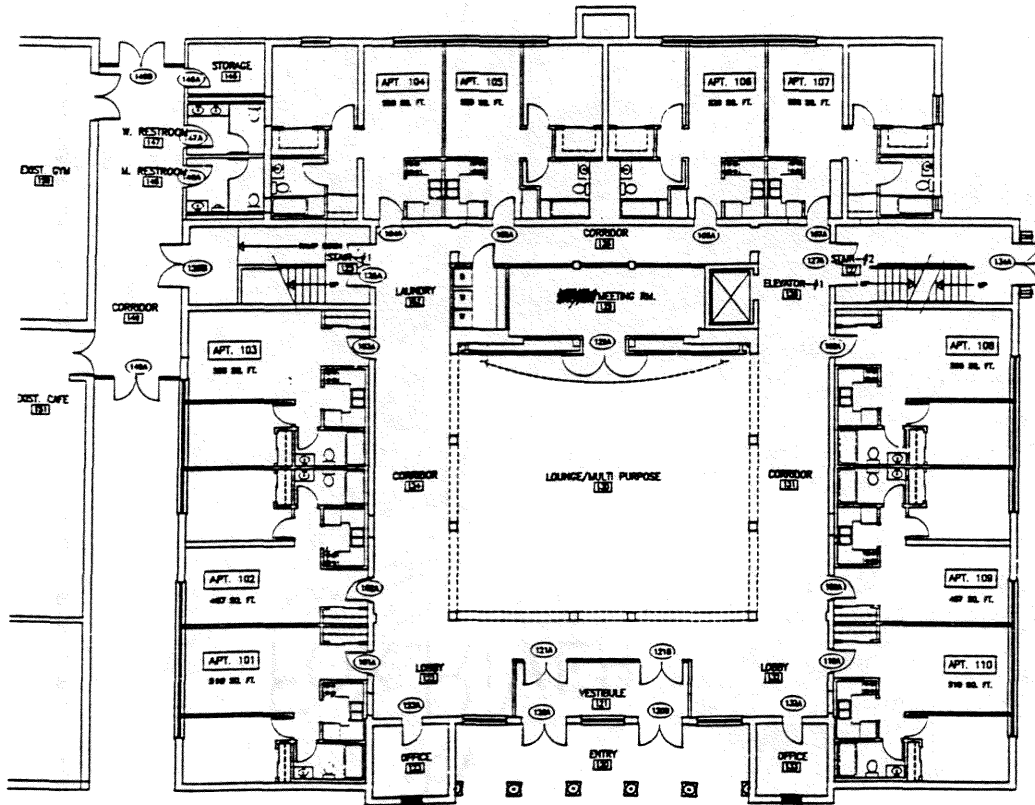


Boundary Location Map
Symmes (Simms) School
City of Huntington
Cabell County, West Virginia



Simms School

**Neighborhood Location Map
 Symmes (Simms) School
 City of Huntington
 Cabell County, West Virginia**



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

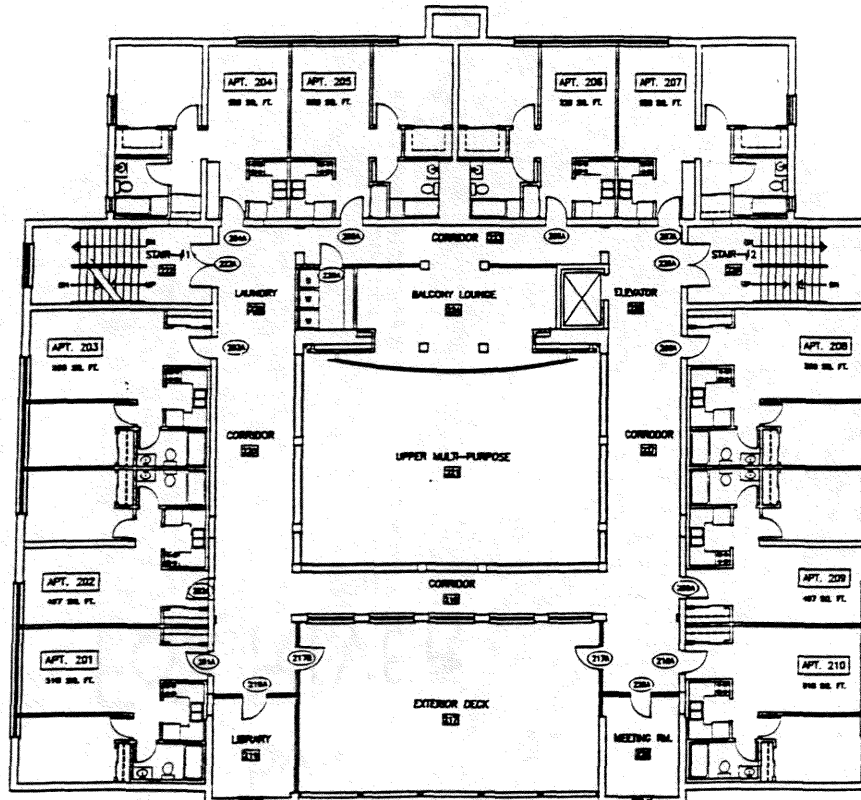
1/8" = 1'-0"

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SIMMS SCHOOL BUILDING
 HUNTINGTON
 CABELL COUNTY WV

**SIMMS SCHOOL
 ELDERLY HOUSING PROJECT**

840 10th STREET

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

1/8"=1'-0"

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SIMMS SCHOOL BUILDING

HUNTINGTON

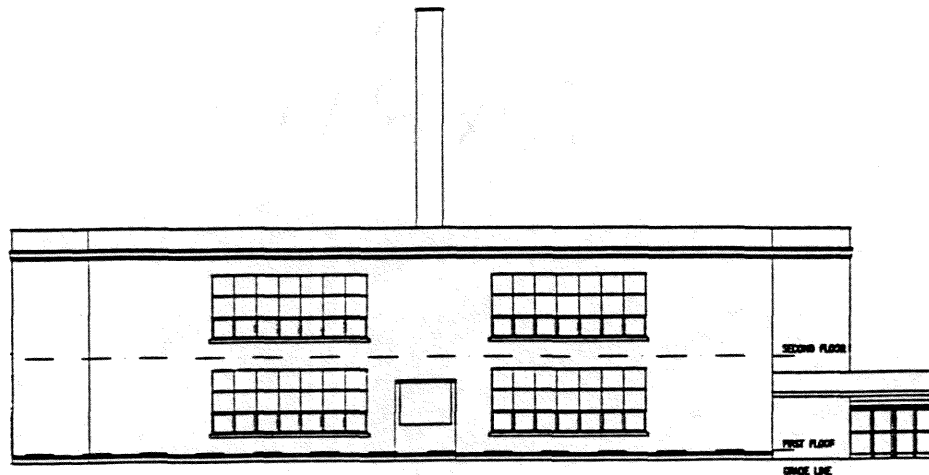
CABELL COUNTY WV

SIMMS SCHOOL

ELDERLY HOUSING PROJECT

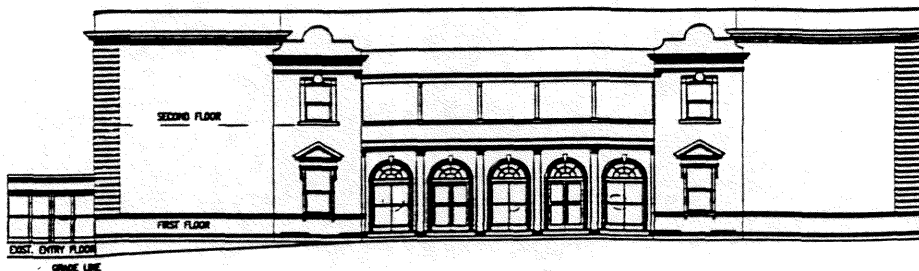
840 12th STREET

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA



NORTH ELEVATIONS

1/8"=1'-0"



SOUTH ELEVATIONS

1/8"=1'-0"

SIMMS SCHOOL

ELDERLY HOUSING PROJECT

840 10th STREET

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

ELEVATIONS
 SIMMS SCHOOL BUILDING
 HUNTINGTON
 CABELL COUNTY WV