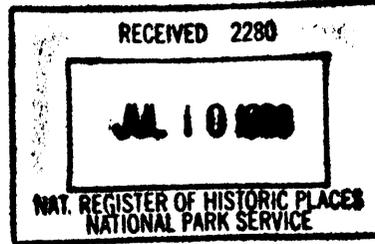


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



988

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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 any 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 Franklinton High School  
other names/site number Franklinton Junior High School

2. Location

street & number 617 Main Street NA not for publication  
city or town Franklinton NA vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Washington code 117 zip code 70438

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker July 6, 1998  
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker Date  
Deputy LA SHPO, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

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 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
- other (explain):

Edson H. Beall Signature of Keeper Date of Action 8.16.98

**FRANKLINTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Name of property

**WASHINGTON PARISH, LA**

County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  1  </u>	<u>    </u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	Total

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

  NA  

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

  0  

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat.   Education  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sub.   School  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat.   Education  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sub.   School  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival/Collegiate Gothic

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   Concrete  

walls   Brick  

roof   Other: Tar and gravel  
  Asphalt shingle  

other   Stone  

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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National Park Service**

## **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Completed in 1939, the Franklinton High School consists of two large brick buildings, each two stories in height. The main (front) structure contains classrooms and administrative offices; the rear holds the school's auditorium and gymnasium. The two buildings are connected by two, one-story, brick arcaded walkways (see attached sketch map). An example of the Collegiate Gothic style, the ensemble was built all-of-a-piece after fire destroyed the town's previous high school. The grouping stands within a campus which encompasses a large city block facing the community's tree-lined Main Street. Although the auditorium/gymnasium building has received an inappropriate mansard roof, the main building is well preserved on the exterior, retaining all of its original detailing.

Some Franklinton residents believe that partially surviving walls of the fire-ravaged older school were reused in the construction of the newer building. However, architectural evidence and photographs taken after the fire indicate that this is not the case. The confusion may arise from the fact that the older school was also articulated in the Collegiate Gothic style, and residents at the time apparently wanted to closely replicate the school they had lost.

The 1939 classroom building is in the shape of a rectangle with a hollow center containing a concrete courtyard. A two-story, "U"-shaped area forms three sides of this rectangle; a one-story utility area connects the two wings of the "U" to form the fourth (rear) side. The plan is fairly conventional. A large entrance opens into a minimal lobby which leads in turn to a continuous hallway running from end to end of the building. Classrooms are located on each side of this hall. At each end of the building the hallway makes 90 degree turns to extend into the legs of the "U". Classrooms are located only on the outside walls of these hallway extensions. The inside walls contain doors leading to the courtyard. The rear utility section contains the building's original restrooms, a boiler room, and a storage chamber.

The facade of the main building features a five-part Baroque articulation consisting of a central pavilion flanked by recessed wings which terminate in projecting end sections. The building's decorative characteristics strongly reflect the Collegiate Gothic style. These features include:

- 1) the massing of the facade's central pavilion, which is framed by octagonal, barbican-like side towers.
- 2) the decoration (done in stone) of the central pavilion, which includes:

**CONTINUED**

**United States Department of the Interior  
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## **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET**

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- a) second-level windows ennobled by tracery framed by trefoils,
  - b) the use of Gothic lettering to form the school's name in a panel above the aforementioned windows, and
  - c) a large arch defining the entrance which is evocative of the relatively flat pointed arches found on late English Gothic buildings.
- 3) the ornamentation of the recessed wings and projecting end sections. These are distinguished by hood molds surmounting sets of windows and panels featuring bas relief lancet patterns formed by protruding moldings in elaborate profile.
  - 4) a tall crenelated parapet outlining the barbicans, the rest of the facade and the side elevations.
  - 5) ornamental buttresses distinguishing the facade and side elevations.
  - 6) foundation ventilation grilles in the form of paired quatrefoils.

Other motifs found on the building include a watertable, a belt course between the upper level windows and the crenelated parapet, two belt courses on the barbicans, a bas relief shield centered within an arched shaped brick band above the entrance pavilion's name panel, and classically decorated arched niches on each side of the building's porch. These are flanked by pilasters with molded capitals and bases. The pilasters, in turn, support large friezes featuring triglyphs.

The auditorium/gymnasium building is located a few yards behind the classroom structure. The two-story auditorium is typical of the period, containing a large stage at one end and a balcony at the other. Its only interior feature of note is a series of circular light fixtures in the Art Deco style. The auditorium's facade exhibits a three-part articulation in which a large arcade formed by round arches is flanked by octagonal barbicans. The arcade is enlivened by bold piers surmounted by unusual capitals resembling stacked triangles. In addition to the barbicans, the following motifs (all decorating an entrance porch behind the arcade) continue the school's Collegiate Gothic styling:

- 1) pointed arch doors leading to the auditorium,

**CONTINUED**

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## **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET**

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- 2) a ceiling subdivided to resemble Gothic vaulting, and
- 3) an octagonal wooden ticket box featuring a multi-foil arch flanked by slender paired colonnettes.

The auditorium's barbicans serve as stair towers to the balcony and are pierced by doors whose surrounds (also distinguished by quoins) actually bend to follow the angle of the towers' octagonal shapes. Piers decorated to resemble buttresses are found on the auditorium's side walls.

Metal trusses supporting the roof are the two-story gymnasium's most interesting feature. Tall bleachers line one side of this space, with store rooms, dressing rooms, a concession stand, and a small classroom occupying the space beneath these seats. The gymnasium's exterior is very plain, with hood molds surmounting large windows as its only Gothic stylistic feature.

Alterations to the main building include the construction of additional first and second story classrooms at each rear corner; the reconfiguration of the formerly large historic classrooms to create more rooms (each smaller in size than the originals); and the addition of linoleum floors and dropped ceilings. Regrettably, the roof of the auditorium has been replaced with an inappropriate mansard roof. Also, a cafeteria wing has been attached to the gymnasium by a brick arcade, and a small one-story addition has been appended to another side of the gym. All of these changes occurred in the 1950s or later.

While the mansard roof on the auditorium has seriously compromised its historic integrity, the main building survives with all of its Collegiate Gothic features intact, and they are quite numerous. In short, this building alone makes the school one of only a handful of architectural landmarks within the community of Franklinton. Finally, it should be noted that the main building and rear auditorium/gymnasium read as separate buildings (which in fact they are). Hence changes to one have not seriously affected the other.

**NOTE:** The freestanding building shown on the USGS map must be the cafeteria, which is connected to the complex via a breezeway.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" next to 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" next to all that apply.)

NA

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

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**Period of Significance**

1939

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**Significant Dates**

1939

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

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**Architect/Builder**

Herman J. Duncan & Co., Inc., Architects

Caldwell Bros. & Hart, Contractors

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

NA

- 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:

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

## **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET**

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The Franklinton High School is locally significant because it is one of only seven architectural landmarks within the Town of Franklinton. It achieves this distinction as a superior example of the Collegiate Gothic style, incorporating both characteristic massing and numerous decorative details.

Franklinton is an old community which has experienced distinct periods of growth. The first began in 1819 with the creation of Washington Parish and the temporary designation of a rural spot five miles from Franklinton's current location as parish seat. That same year, John W. Bickham donated to the parish government 30 acres of land at what would become Franklinton's permanent location. A year later, the Louisiana legislature designated the location as the temporary parish seat and in 1821 gave the community its name. However, it appears that parish officials did not relocate the courthouse until a July 4, 1826 election made the town's designation as Washington Parish's seat permanent. A post office was established in 1829, and a brick courthouse had been completed by 1830. The town received a charter in 1861 but apparently its municipal government remained largely inactive. Another charter was issued in 1888. At that time the town's corporate limits encompassed one square mile of land with the courthouse at its center. From this time forward, city fathers actively governed the town. Significant growth occurred when the railroad arrived in 1907. A promotional booklet published c. 1908 shows the town's original street grid partly surrounded by a new grid of lots and squares more than three times the size of the old. And, from a population of 236 in 1900, the community had grown to 814 inhabitants (an increase of over 300%) by 1910. However, this phenomenal growth did not continue, and today Franklinton is a small parish seat/commercial center serving a largely agricultural countryside.

Despite its age and previous prosperity, Franklinton has very few historic buildings of architectural significance. Because Washington Parish has not been officially surveyed, the National Register staff conducted a windshield survey to gather information on extant buildings. This survey found the central business district to contain a series of undistinguished vernacular structures dating from the late nineteenth century to the mid-1940s. These buildings face streets organized around a grid system focusing upon a modern courthouse. Residential neighborhoods were found to contain three general types of dwellings:

- 1) simple unstyled cottages dating any time from the turn-of-the-century to the present day,

**CONTINUED**

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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- 2) modest and unpretentious interpretations of styles such as the Queen Anne Revival, Colonial Revival, and English Cottage, and
- 3) modern slab-on-grade brick ranch houses.

Only seven buildings rank as notable exceptions to these findings. These landmarks include a well-preserved c. 1900 commercial building, a Romanesque Revival commercial structure, a Spanish Mission style church, two significant domestic examples of the Queen Anne, one home illustrating the transition between the Queen Anne and the Colonial Revival, and the Collegiate Gothic style Franklinton High School.

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Historic photographs of ruins of previous Franklinton High School; copies in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Windshield survey of Franklinton by National Register staff, May 5, 1998.

**FRANKLINTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Name of property

**WASHINGTON PARISH, LA**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data****Acreage of Property** approximately 4 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 771790 3416200

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ 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 By**name/title National Register Stafforganization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1998street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804**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 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)

**Property Owner**

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

name Washington Parish School Board, Dennie Fowler, Superintendentstreet & number P. O. Box 587 telephone (504) 839-3436city or town Franklinton state LA zip code 70438**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**FRANKLINTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Name of property

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

**WASHINGTON PARISH, LA**

County and State

OMB No. 1024-0018

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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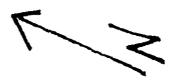
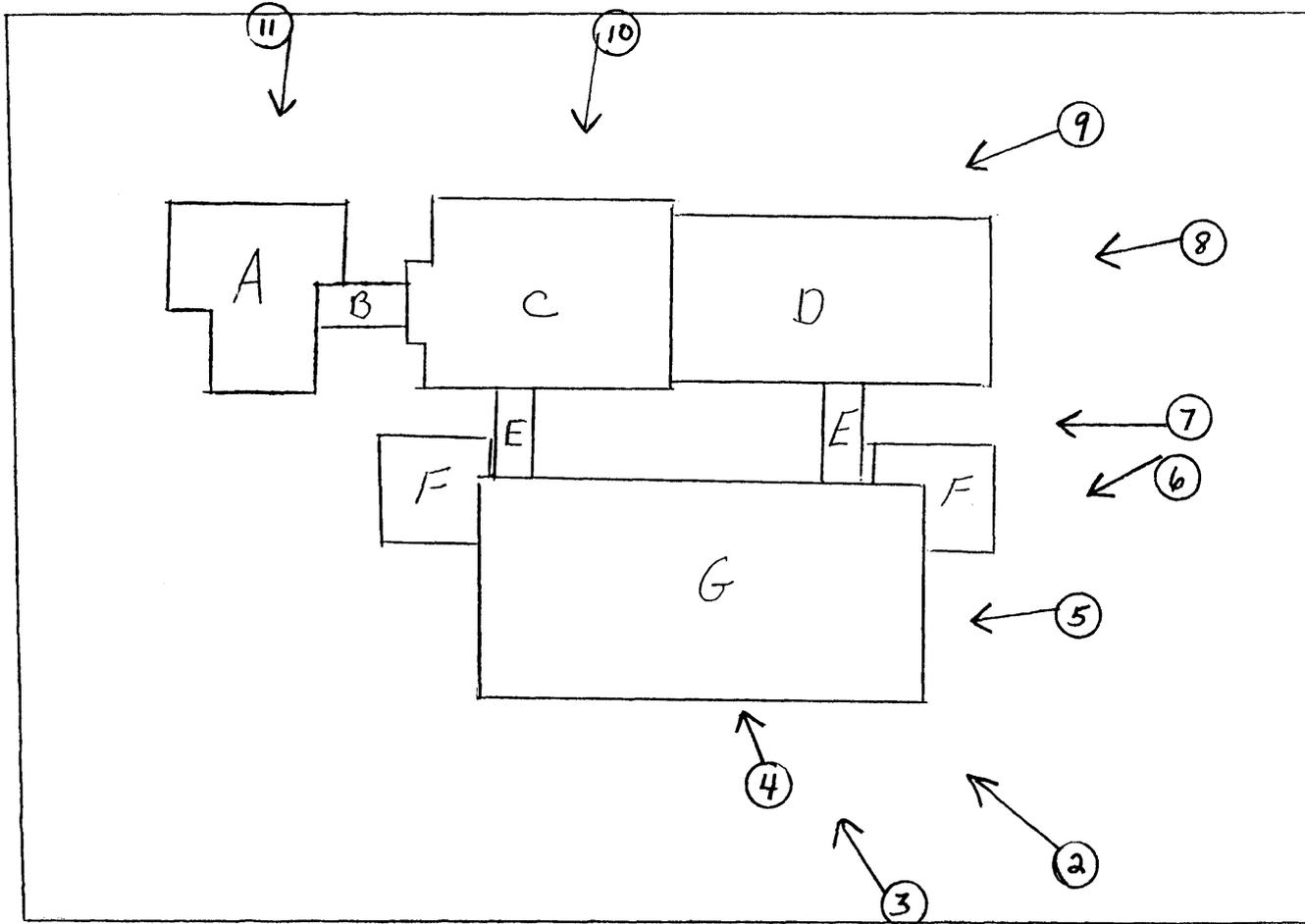
**Boundary Description:**

The block bounded by Main, Howard, Tenth, and Alford streets, Town of Franklinton, Washington Parish, LA.

**Boundary Justification:**

Boundaries follow property lines.

FRANKLINTON HIGH SCHOOL GROUND PLAN  
 Washington Parish, LA



- LEGEND:
- |   |                      |   |                           |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| A | 1950s Cafeteria Wing | E | Original Arcade           |
| B | 1950s Arcade         | F | 1950s Classroom Additions |
| C | Gymnasium            | G | Main (Classroom) Building |
| D | Auditorium           |   |                           |

