

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

731

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Pine Street School

Other names/site number: Pine Street Elementary School

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 500 South Pine Street

City or town: Spartanburg State: SC County: Spartanburg

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B x C D

| | |
|--|------------------|
| | <u>8/30/2016</u> |
| Elizabeth M. Johnson | Date |
| Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer | |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Joe Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

10.17.16
Date of Action

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

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/BEAUX ARTS

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STONE, GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Pine Street Elementary School is located on a flat, eight-acre site at the southeast corner of South Pine and Boyd Streets in the Converse Heights neighborhood of Spartanburg, South Carolina. The school sits just south of the Converse Heights Historic District, a residential neighborhood of primarily single family homes constructed in the early decades of the twentieth century that was listed on the National Register in 2007. The Pine Street Elementary school was constructed in 1928-1929 to serve the residents of this neighborhood. The present school building represents three major building campaigns: the original, two-story, roughly L-shaped, Beaux-Arts building with facades on Boyd and Pine streets constructed in 1928-29; a one-story classroom wing extending east from the historic northern elevation constructed in 1956; and a large two-story addition extending to the east of the historic Pine Street façade, with a one-story extension to the rear of this elevation constructed between 1999 and 2001. While the additions substantially expanded the capacity of the original school building, they were designed to be compatible with the historic school; the use of similar building materials and a sympathetic architectural design that marks a clear differentiation of old from new resulted in an expansion

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

that did not detract from the historic building. The original building also retains many character-defining interior finishes that contribute to its historic integrity. Despite later additions, the Pine Street School retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

The 1928-1929 Building: Exterior

The 1928-29 school building represents about half of what was originally planned by architect Charles Coker Wilson. The school was designed as a quadrangle to be built in five sections as the need for more space arose. The Great Depression halted all school building in Spartanburg until the late 1930s, however, so the quadrangle as envisioned by Wilson was never realized. The 1928-1929 building is roughly L-shaped in plan, with three elevations: the western and primary elevation fronts Boyd Street, the southern elevation fronts Pine Street, and the truncated northern elevation faces the 1956 addition on the northern end of the site. The site slopes gradually to the north, creating basement level entrances to the school on the north end and first floor entrances on the western and southern elevations. The school contains elements of Beaux Arts architecture with its monumental massing, symmetrical facades, classically-inspired entrances, and accented cornice lines. These elements are somewhat stylized, achieving what Wilson described as a “mildly modernistic touch.”¹ The building rises two stories above a raised basement on the northern and western elevations to a flat roof, and is constructed of buff-colored brick with cast stone details on the street elevations. The three wings form a courtyard; the secondary elevations facing the courtyard are constructed of red brick.

The Boyd street (western) elevation is dominated by a grand, classically inspired, projecting central entry, what Wilson termed a loggia, which served as the primary entrance when the school was constructed. The entry is flanked by symmetrical, recessed wings that extend eleven bays before terminating in end pavilions. The two-story entrance pavilion features a flight of steps leading to a stylized classical stone entry porch supported by four, flat, Ionic columns with cast stone capitals. Twelve corbels support a cast stone frieze that is inscribed, “Pine Street School.” Central, recessed non-historic doors are flanked by two windows on the interior wall of the porch. The second story of the entrance pavilion is defined by a large, recessed, Roman arch constructed of cast stone set within the buff-colored brick façade. Five rounded-arch windows comprise the base of the arch with elaborate tracery above. The arch is framed by brick towers adorned with cast stone cartouches and stringcourses at the top and small windows flanking the

¹ Charles C. Wilson, “A Grammar School Planned for Present and Future Needs,” *The Nations Schools*, Vol. 7 (May 1931) 40.

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

arch at the bottom. Above the arch, the brickwork is vertically stepped to continue the lines of the tracery within the arch.

The identical wings that flank the entry pavilion extend eleven bays before terminating in the end pavilions. A cast stone string course separates the basement level from the upper stories. The wings are divided by stepped central bays into two groups of five bays each. These central bays feature paired windows on all stories, and share the details of the entrance pavilion: cast stone string courses and cartouches just below the cornice. The wings feature non-historic replacement windows on all floor levels with cast stone sills and brick lintels. A string of Roman arches adorn the façade just below the cornice line.

The end pavilions are unadorned with the exception of the basement stringcourse, a large, blank rectangle encompassing the upper stories, and geometric brick and cast stone ornament below the cornice line.

The Pine Street (southern) elevation of the 1928-29 building continues the ornamentation established on the Boyd Street elevation at the cornice level. It also continues the fenestration arrangement. This elevation is just two stories and is also arranged as a stepped façade. In this case, the elevation is divided by five moderately projecting pavilions into groups of five bays with windows on both floor levels. There are two entries into the historic portion of this elevation, at the second and fourth projecting pavilions, which project slightly more forward than the terminating and central pavilions. These entrance pavilions feature simple, cast stone door frames on the ground floor and paired, Roman arch windows with cast stone mullions and ornament above and dentils below. Single, narrow windows light each floor level in the end pavilions.

The northern elevation of the 1928-1929 building is a truncated version of the Pine Street elevation, with a projecting central entry flanked by five recessed bays and terminated by two, slightly projecting end bays. In fenestration and ornament, this elevation is identical to the Pine Street elevation with the exception of a full basement level due to the grade change at the northern end of the site. The basement-level stringcourse on the western elevation is carried onto the northern elevation and basement-level windows light the lower level.

The school's corner stone is located at the northwest corner of the building. The portion of the corner stone at on the northern elevation lists the Trustees, Officers, and Builders at the time of construction. The portion that is located on the western elevation is inscribed with a verse from Psalm 144: "Erected 1928-1928 'That our sons may be as plants grown up in the youth, that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a Palace.'"

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

The 1928-29 Building: Interior

The interior of the 1928-29 building retains many character-defining historic features. The original plan remains intact: double-loaded classroom corridors extend from a central lobby at the Boyd Street entrance and continue along the Pine Street wing. The central lobby is a large space divided by square, Ionic columns that rise to a richly coffered ceiling. The original terrazzo floors extend from the lobby and down the classroom corridors. The corridors are lined with wainscoting of the original salt-glazed, buff brick. Original finishes also remain in stair halls which feature terrazzo floors, wooden banisters and metal balusters, and classrooms which retain wood door and window trim as well as chalk board trim.

1956 Addition

The 1956 addition is a one-story wing that is connected to the northern elevation of the 1928-1929 building at the basement level of the center bay. A one-story, glass connector bridges the two buildings and the 1956 wing extends east. A metal, covered walkway leads to the entrance of the connector. This wing was originally L-shaped in plan, turning south at the terminus, adhering to the basic concept of the quadrangular design in plan, if not in form; it included four classrooms, a cafeteria and a kitchen. A multi-purpose room used as a gym was also constructed at this time. The gym was located off of the rear elevation of the Pine Street wing. This arrangement was altered in 1999-2001 when the full renovation and expansion of the plant took place. The short end of the L was removed and a rectangular wing was added to the north, and the gym was demolished. The design of the 1956 addition is relatively simple; it is largely unornamented but for decorative brick grid along its Boyd Street (western) elevation. The interior of the 1956 addition consists of a single-loaded corridor of classrooms. The 1999-2001 expansion of this wing added more classrooms in a double-loaded corridor arrangement.

1999-2001 Addition

The additions to the Pine Street School in 1999-2001 were substantial. The most visible change from the street was a two-story addition to the Pine Street elevation, with a stone and glass lobby connecting the historic building to the new wing. This reoriented the main entrance to the building to Pine Street. This addition was sensitive to the historic building and employed the same massing, building materials, architectural details, and fenestration arrangement as the 1928-29 building. The 1999-2001 addition also included a fine arts suite, a new cafeteria, a more spacious gymnasium, and a student activities center. These additional spaces are contained in a single story that connects to the rear (northern elevation) of the Pine Street wing of 1928-29 building at its eastern terminus, and to the connecting lobby of the new wing. They extend north and east, creating the eastern wall of the historic quadrangular plan, and forming a courtyard in the space between the old and the new buildings. Both the extension of the Pine Street wing, and

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

the central, rear additions are organized around double-loaded corridors. Due to the recent vintage of these additions, they are not included in the period of significance.

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1928-1956

Significant Dates
1928-29

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Charles Coker Wilson
W. Paul Williams

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Pine Street Elementary School was constructed between 1928 and 1929. It is the oldest, continuously operating school in Spartanburg County and was designed by one of the most prominent architects in South Carolina, Charles Coker Wilson. The building was expanded in 1956 and again between 1999 and 2001 to accommodate the needs of a growing student population. While the additions substantially expanded the capacity of the original school building, they were designed to be compatible with the historic school and do not detract from the historic building. The Pine Street School meets National Register Criterion A at the local level in the area of Education for its association with the development of Spartanburg's public school system in the early twentieth century. The school also meets National Register Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture an excellent example of school design in Spartanburg and as an important work of prominent South Carolina architect, Charles Coker Wilson in collaboration with Spartanburg architect, W. Paul Williams. The period of significance for the Pine Street Elementary School is 1928-1956. The 1999-2001 additions are excluded from the period of significance due to their recent vintage.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Education

The Development of a public Educational System in South Carolina, 1712-1924

The development of a publically-funded educational system in South Carolina was initiated by South Carolinians as early as 1712 with the passage of the Free School Act. However, despite this early advancement of an educational system supported by taxes, a fully supported public school system was not realized until well into the twentieth century. The development of a publically-funded school system was stymied by a lack of sufficient financial support by the State government, a general stigma that free schools were for poor and orphaned (elite South Carolinians were privately educated), and the views of some citizens that a general education for all at the expense of tax-payers would undermine an economic system which required uneducated laborers. 1,270 Free Schools operated in South Carolina in 1860, 114 of which were located in Spartanburg County. However, lacking sufficient funding, they could not employ well-educated, trained teachers, and the education they provided was hardly sufficient.²

²Ella Poats, *The First Ninety-Eight Years 1884-1982: Spartanburg County District 7*. (Columbia, S.C.: R.L. Bryan, 1982) 1.

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

Several attempts at broadening a publically-supported educational system in South Carolina were made throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century. The first state Constitution to address public education in a thorough, organized fashion was passed in 1868. This Constitution introduced significant advancements in the realm of educating the population, including the creation of an elected State Superintendent of Education, a uniform system of free public schools for whites and African Americans supported by state and local taxes and compulsory attendance.³ However, these provisions were not carried out during the Reconstruction years and the Constitution was amended in 1878 with significant cuts made to the financial support provided to the schools by the State. The revisions also diminished state control over individual school districts, thwarting the development of a uniform system. Despite these limitations, the amended constitution continued to be the basis for South Carolina's public schools for the next three decades.

The early decades of the twentieth century brought progress towards the development of a public school system, beginning in 1910 when the first increases in state funding of the schools were adopted. Further support for public education arrived in 1915 with the passage of the Compulsory Attendance Law which required children between the ages of eight and fourteen to attend school in his or her local school district. More financial support followed with the passage of the 6-0-1 Law in 1924; this law increased state funding to six months of school funding for districts who could support funding of an additional month. These advancements significantly broadened the reach of public education in South Carolina.

The Development of the Spartanburg Public Schools, 1870-1930

The public school system in Spartanburg reflected the patterns of school development throughout the state of South Carolina. The City of Spartanburg is located in northwest South Carolina, south of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in a ten-county region known as The Upstate. Spartanburg is the largest city and the county seat of Spartanburg County. The County Commission of Education of Spartanburg County was established in 1870, following the passage of the state Constitution in 1868. The Graded School Act, passed by the South Carolina General Assembly at the close of 1883, provided for the establishment of a school district for the city of Spartanburg. This new district, which encompassed three square miles radiating from the Spartanburg Court House, was established in 1884.

The new Board of Trustees immediately set about furnishing school buildings for the white and African American children of Spartanburg, as well as establishing a course of study. The first Spartanburg City Schools opened in 1884. White students in grades 1-3 attended school at the former Female Academy building on North Converse Street and those in grades 4-7 attended school in the former Male Academy building on North Liberty Street. African American children in grades 1-7 attended school in the Mount Moriah Baptist Church on South Liberty Street. Significantly, these early public schools of Spartanburg were free only to those living within one-and-a-half miles from the school; tuition was required for those living outside of the district. Additionally, the limited financial support outlined in the State Constitution of 1878

³ Ibid., 2-3.

The Pine Street School

Spartanburg, SC

Name of Property

County and State

meant that the available public funds only covered the operation of the school for the first five or six months, and a fixed-rate tuition was required to supplement the cost of operating the final months of the school year.⁴ Even the limited State-support for public schools was fiercely opposed by many South Carolinians making these early years uncertain ones for the fledgling public educational system. However, local support was more plentiful in Spartanburg than elsewhere in the state. A local tax passed in 1885 for the purpose of funding the schools contributed to the advancement of Spartanburg's system, though it did not eliminate the need for supplementing fees, and financial problems continued to plague the system until the early decades of the twentieth century when the constitutional amendments of 1910 and the passage of the 6-0-1 Law in 1924 placed the public schools on more secure financial footing.

Despite limited funding at the start, Spartanburg's public school system steadily grew, as did its reputation. By 1890, the city opened its first building specifically constructed for use as a graded school, one of the first in the state, closely followed by the opening of a second school just two years later.⁵ The system's Superintendent at this time claimed in his annual report of 1892-93 that enrollment increases were due to the reputation of Spartanburg's schools. Over the next three decades, from 1897-1929, as state financial support increased, and the population grew, enrollment swelled from just over 2,000 pupils in 1900 to about 7,000 pupils in 1929.⁶ Nine schools were added to the Spartanburg system during this period, the last of which was the Pine Street Elementary school.⁷

Spartanburg's growing school system maintained its excellent reputation as the system grew. In 1931, Pine Street School architect, Charles C. Wilson enthused, "The school system of the City of Spartanburg, S.C. has been one of the most successful in the state, not only in the efficiency of its educational work and in its inspiration to the community but in the development of an adequate educational plant."⁸ He attributed the system's success in great part to a far-sighted Board of Trustees. In 1937, a supplement to the *Spartanburg Herald* featuring Spartanburg attractions praised Spartanburg's school system as a model for the region:

"Spartanburg, South Carolina has a public school educational system that is regarded as a model for the South, and as the equal of that of any city in any section of the United States. Modern buildings with latter day conveniences and facilities strategically located in every section of the city, a large and experienced corps of teachers, courses in manual arts and domestic science and an exacting scholarship standard in the grammar and high school grades, all contribute to making the system one of the most perfect in the nation."⁹

⁴ Ibid., 13.

⁵ Ibid., 31.

⁶ Ibid., 71.

⁷ These schools included: The Converse School (1897), Southside School (1905-6), Carrier Street School (1908-9), Oakland School (1911-12), Fremont School (1914-15), Highland School (1915-16), Frank Evans High School (1921-22), Cumming Street High School (1926-27), Pine Street School (1928-29).

⁸ Wilson, 35.

⁹ "The Sunday Spartanburg-Herald Journal," *The Spartanburg Herald*, September 12, 1937, 3.

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

Built in the final years of the expansion the Spartanburg system before the Stock Market crash of 1929 halted school construction for a decade, the Pine Street School became a shining star in this well-regarded system.

The Pine Street School

By 1928, the southeastern section of Spartanburg needed a grammar school of their own. School officials determined the new school should accommodate at least 600 students with the capacity to contain a greater number in short order; they expected enrollment of about a thousand students within the first five years of the school's completion. A full, undeveloped city block of roughly 274 by 610 feet was purchased for the new school building with an adjoining block of 250 by 525 feet purchased for use as an athletic field. The original design of the school was a compact quadrangle with classrooms located around the perimeter and a combined auditorium and gymnasium located at the center. The intention was to build the portion of the school that would meet immediate needs with the remaining sections added as enrollment grew. This plan allowed for expansion without disruption to the school and its arrangement.¹⁰ Just over half of this plan was actually built at a cost of \$245,750. The onset of the Great Depression following the Stock Market crash of 1929 curtailed all school building in Spartanburg until 1938, and the full quadrangle as conceived by Wilson was never realized.

The Pine Street Grammar school opened in September of 1929. The school originally served white students in Kindergarten through sixth grade.¹¹ In advance of the school's completion, the *Spartanburg Herald* proudly claimed, "Spartanburg's newest educational institution, the grammar school building at Pine and Boyd streets will be, when all sections are finished, the largest and finest grammar school in South Carolina."¹² Among the attributes of the new building enumerated in the article was the building's impressive architecture which drew comparison with other imposing institutions:

The structure is of the same magnificent cream-grey stone and marble composition as the splendid Frank Evans High School...This material gives that impressive military academic appearance...similar to the Virginia Military Institute and some sections of West Point colony.¹³

W.W. Jenkins, the future Principal of the Pine Street School who also served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, was partially responsible for the planning of the new school. He reportedly made a study of the best schools in the country and declared that the Pine Street School was "on a par with any."¹⁴

¹⁰ Wilson, 35-36.

¹¹ The Spartanburg schools were integrated over a period of time beginning in 1964.

¹² "New Grammar School Will, When Finished, Be Largest and Finest in South Carolina, City Believes," *The Spartanburg Herald*, December 19, 1928, 16.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

Praise for the Pine Street School continued after its completion. The President of South Carolina's Teacher's Association, H.O. Strohecker, visited Spartanburg in September of 1930 for his organization's annual meeting. A proponent of state investment in education as a means of eradicating poverty, Strohecker asserted that well-equipped schools contribute to the elevation of the general well-being of the population. Following his tour of Spartanburg which included the local high school and Pine Street Elementary school, Strohecker reported, "I have had the opportunity to visit schools in all sections of the nation and I have yet to see a more modern school or a more carefully planned school than the Pine street institution."¹⁵ He also praised the health department of the school, and the Principal, W.W. Jenkins.

Twenty years after its construction, the Pine Street grammar School was still garnering praise as one of the finest schools the city. A survey of the Spartanburg schools taken in 1948 declared, "The Pine Street Elementary School plant has one of the largest, newest, and best buildings in the city system." The report highlighted the excellence of the ample building site, the adequate size of the building, fire-resistant stairways, well-designed classrooms, spacious corridors, well ventilated cloakrooms, and excellent hygienic planning.¹⁶

In the ensuing decades, however, increases in enrollment and evolving needs of a modern school system began to wear on the existing plant and a series of additions expanded the school's capacity. The first expansion to the school came in 1956, with an addition that added four classrooms, a cafeteria and kitchen, and a multi-purpose room at a cost of approximately \$250,000.¹⁷ This addition did not follow the 1928 plan in form, but it did adhere to the basic concept of site development in a quadrangular arrangement; an L-shaped classroom wing was added off the north elevation and wrapped around the eastern portion of the site, and the multi-purpose room was added off the rear (northern) elevation of the Pine Street wing, and almost connected to the classroom wing. In 1982, an additional 2,450 square feet that included two classrooms were added at an approximate cost of \$127,000.¹⁸ In 1996, the County School Board considered demolishing the historic building, which by that time had acquired fourteen portable classrooms to accommodate the 800 pupil student body, and constructing a new school. However, a renovation and expansion was favored over demolition and between 1999 and 2001, the building received a sensitive two-story addition to the Pine Street elevation, with a vaulted lobby connecting the historic building to the new wing. This reoriented the main entrance to the building, which had previously been entered on Boyd Street. The renovation included installation of an elevator for accessibility, a fine arts suite, a new cafeteria, a more spacious gymnasium, and a student activities center.¹⁹

¹⁵ "Poverty Source of State's Ills," *The Spartanburg Herald*, September 22, 1930, 8.

¹⁶ Division of Surveys and Field Services, *Spartanburg City Schools: A Survey Report*. (Nashville: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1948) 110.

¹⁷ "County School Projects Win Approval," *The Spartanburg Herald*, Dec 2, 1954, 1.

¹⁸ "Board Accepts Opinion on School Levy," *The Spartanburg Herald*, August 5, 1982, B9.

¹⁹ "Pine Street Plans Innovative Face Lift," *The Spartanburg Herald*, August 17, 1997 B1.

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

Criterion C: Architecture

The Architectural Design of the Pine Street School

The design of the original Pine Street School was greatly impacted by the South Carolina school building code of 1924. The need for a school building code was made plain following a tragic fire at the Cleveland School in Kershaw County in the spring of 1923, in which seventy-seven people lost their lives while attempting to flee a fire in a second-floor auditorium. A contributing factor in the loss of so many lives was the single exit through a narrow stair which became clogged during the stampede.²⁰ The school building code, of which Pine Street School architect, Charles C. Wilson was a contributing author, introduced fire-safety measures in school construction. Specifically, any school building of more than a single story in height had to be built of fire-resistant materials such as masonry, stone, concrete, brick, or structural terra cotta, including interior bearing walls. Buildings of two or more stories had to contain easily-accessed and properly constructed staircases or fire-escapes at opposite sides of the building, with no area of the building more than 100 feet from a fire exit with egress from every room. Corridors had to be eight feet wide; stair exits were required to serve a maximum of 250 people with enough to serve the entire school. Stair construction had to be of fire proof materials and of strength and dimensions that facilitated ease of egress. To ensure adherence to the code, all plans were required to be submitted for approval to the State Superintendent of Education and the State Insurance Commissioner and completed buildings could not be occupied without passing inspection by the State Insurance Commissioner.²¹

The Pine Street School was the first elementary school built in Spartanburg after the passage of the school building code. The building reflects these safety measures in its design and construction. Corridors were between nine and eleven feet wide, no room was more than eighty feet from an exit, and the stair towers were designed both to reduce the danger of panic and to prevent fire and smoke spreading from one story to another by being completely enclosed in solid brick walls, approached through open vestibules, and free of balustrades and well holes.

The contribution of the School Building Code to the design of the Pine Street School was not limited to the building's interior. The building was designed to be of fireproof construction. All outside walls and corridor partitions that carried floor and roof loads were constructed of masonry, the floors and roofs were constructed with trussed steel bar joists overlaid with two inch concrete slabs reinforced with wire fabric, the bottom of steel joists were protected with metal lath and gypsum plaster, and stairs, landings, and vestibule floors were all constructed of solid reinforced concrete.²²

The design of the Pine Street School also reflected a consideration for health, hygiene, and general well-being. Classrooms were large and well-lit by five, large, double-hung windows,

²⁰ "Investigation of School Fire," *Charleston Evening Post*, June 4, 1923, 9.

²¹ "For Protection School Houses," *Charleston Evening Post*, January 22, 1924, 11.

²² Wilson, 39.

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

cloakrooms were equipped with windows and exhaust flues to ensure proper ventilation, restrooms were conveniently located for easy accessibility and well-ventilated, and sick children could be cared for in nurse's room and clinic.

Aesthetically, the building's exterior also reflects the concern for security with its imposing facades. The design conveys a sense of impenetrability and, by association, the well-being of its occupants. Wilson describes his own design as "simple with a mildly modernistic touch."²³ The design contains elements of Beaux Arts architecture popular between 1885 and 1930 with its monumental massing, symmetrical facades, classically-inspired entrance, which Wilson calls a loggia, and accented cornice line. These elements are also somewhat stylized, reflecting what Wilson considered a modern approach to classical forms.

The Architects: Charles Coker Wilson and W. Paul Williams

The design of the original Pine Street school was a joint effort between South Carolina architects Charles Coker Wilson of Columbia, and W. Paul Williams of Spartanburg. The Pine Street School commission arrived late in Wilson's career. Wilson's architectural profession began in 1891; by 1928 when the Pine Street School was being constructed, Wilson was one of the most highly regarded architects in South Carolina. Based in Columbia, Wilson's commissions extended across the southern United States and included work in Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia, Alabama, and Florida. Commissions were so plentiful that he entered into numerous architectural partnerships and even opened branch offices. His commissions were as varied in building type as they were in their locations; he designed banks, hotels, civic buildings, churches, hospitals, residences, department stores, and college campus buildings, and many graded and high schools. The increased state investment in public schools systems as the twentieth century progressed created a high demand for educational buildings. Wilson designed over fifty school buildings in North and South Carolina over the course of his career.²⁴ Wilson also helped to write the South Carolina School Building Code of 1924. His extensive experience in the field of school design and his knowledge of state building regulations would have made him a highly desirable candidate for the Spartanburg public school system at the time the need for a new grammar school arose.

Among Wilson's many school commissions in South Carolina were the Anderson Graded School (1895), which was built on a cross-axial plan with a Richardsonian entrance tower that was identified by contemporaries as "the first attempt in South Carolina at distinctive school architecture."²⁵ He also is credited with the design of Logan School in Columbia, South Carolina, which was built in 1913 and listed in the National Register in 1979.

In addition to his prolific career in design, Wilson was also a leader in the architectural profession in the south. He was a founding member and charter president of the South Carolina Association of Architects, which later became the South Carolina chapter of the national organization, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and he served as the chapter President.

²³ Ibid., 40.

²⁴ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992) 211.

²⁵ Wells and Dalton, *South Carolina Architects*, 211.

The Pine Street School

Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC

County and State

Wilson was also President of South Carolina's first Board of Architectural Examiners from 1917 until his death in 1933. In addition to contributing to the establishment of the South Carolina School Building Code in 1924, Wilson also participated in the development of statewide buildings codes in 1932. For his achievements in promoting standards of architectural practice, the AIA named Wilson a Fellow, the first South Carolinian to receive the honor in the twenty-first century.

W. Paul Williams was the associate architect for the Pine Street School. Williams' practice in Spartanburg was extensive. He began his career as a draftsman in the office of S.P. Tinsley in Spartanburg, and opened his own practice in 1924. Prior to his collaboration on the Pine Street School, Williams designed the Majority Baptist Church building (1924), in Spartanburg, a store in Greenville (1925), and three local schools: one in Duncan (1926), the Spartanburg County High School (1926), and a high school in Inman (1927). It may have been his experience with the Spartanburg County High School that made him a good candidate for an associate architect for the Pine Street School. His role would likely have included site supervision and imparting local knowledge. Williams went on to design many other local buildings for small businesses in and around Spartanburg through the late 1950s.

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bishir, Catherine, North Carolina State University Libraries. *North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary*. (Raleigh: NCSU Libraries Digital Scholarship & Publishing Center, 2009), <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000506>

“Board Accepts Opinion on School Levy,” *The Spartanburg Herald*, August 5, 1982, B9.

“County School Projects Win Approval,” *The Spartanburg Herald*, Dec 2, 1954, 1.

Division of Surveys and Field Services. *Spartanburg City Schools: A Survey Report*. (Nashville: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1948).

“For Protection School Houses,” *Charleston Evening Post*, January 22, 1924, 11.

“Investigation of School Fire,” *Charleston Evening Post*, June 4, 1923, 9.

“New Grammar School Will, When Finished, Be Largest and Finest in South Carolina, City Believes,” *The Spartanburg Herald*, December 19, 1928, 16.

“Pine Street Plans Innovative Face Lift,” *The Spartanburg Herald*, August 17, 1997 B1.

Poats, Ella. *The First Ninety-Eight Years 1884-1982: Spartanburg County District 7*. (Columbia, S.C.: R.L. Bryan, 1982).

“Poverty Source of State’s Ills,” *The Spartanburg Herald*, September 22, 1930, 8.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1923, 1951, 1953, 1964, 1968.

“School’s Fate to be Decided in October,” *The Spartanburg Herald*, September 25, 1996, B3.

“The Sunday Spartanburg-Herald Journal,” *The Spartanburg Herald*, September 12, 1937.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992).

Wilson, Charles C. “A Grammar School Planned for Present and Future Needs,” *The Nation’s Schools*, Vol. 7 (May 1931) 35-40.

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.944221 Longitude: -81.910614
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The national register boundaries correspond to the existing property boundaries for Spartanburg County Tax Parcel #7-12-16-254.00 recorded in Deed Book 09B, page 390, situated at the southeast corner of South Pine Street and Boyd Street in Spartanburg.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current ownership parcel includes all of the historic buildings and includes all but a small portion of the historic parcel which is now used for public utilities.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Roysin Younkin
organization: MacRostie Historic Advisors
street & number: 3 Broad Street, Suite 301
city or town: Charleston state: SC zip code: 29401
e-mail: ryounkin@mac-ha.com
telephone: 843-203-5406
date: 10/21/15

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

The Pine Street School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Pine Street School

City or Vicinity: Spartanburg

County: Spartanburg

State: South Carolina

Photographer:

Date Photographed: April 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. West facade, historic main entrance on Boyd St., looking east
2. Historic entrance, looking east
3. West facade at historic entrance, looking east
4. West facade, looking southeast
5. West facade, looking northeast
6. West facade, looking southeast
7. Cornerstone at northwest corner of building
8. Cornerstone at northwest corner of building
9. North elevation, looking southeast from Boyd St.
10. Detail of basement connector between 1920s and 1950s north building
11. South elevation, looking northeast along Pine St.
12. South elevation, looking northwest along Pine St. at 1920s portion of the building
13. South elevation, looking north at southeast entrance and balcony
14. South elevation, looking north at connector between historic school and southeast addition (1990s)
15. South elevation, looking northwest along southeast addition (1990s)
16. East elevation, looking southwest to central and southeast additions (1990s)
17. Looking northwest to east elevation (rear) of 1920s school
18. North elevation, looking southwest from courtyard
19. Looking west between historic school and north building (1950s)
20. Looking northwest along south elevation of north building (1950s)
21. Looking northeast from Boyd St. at west facade of north building (1950s)
22. First floor, main corridor, looking west in front entry hall to main entrance
23. Main corridor, looking SW in front entry hall

The Pine Street School

Spartanburg, SC

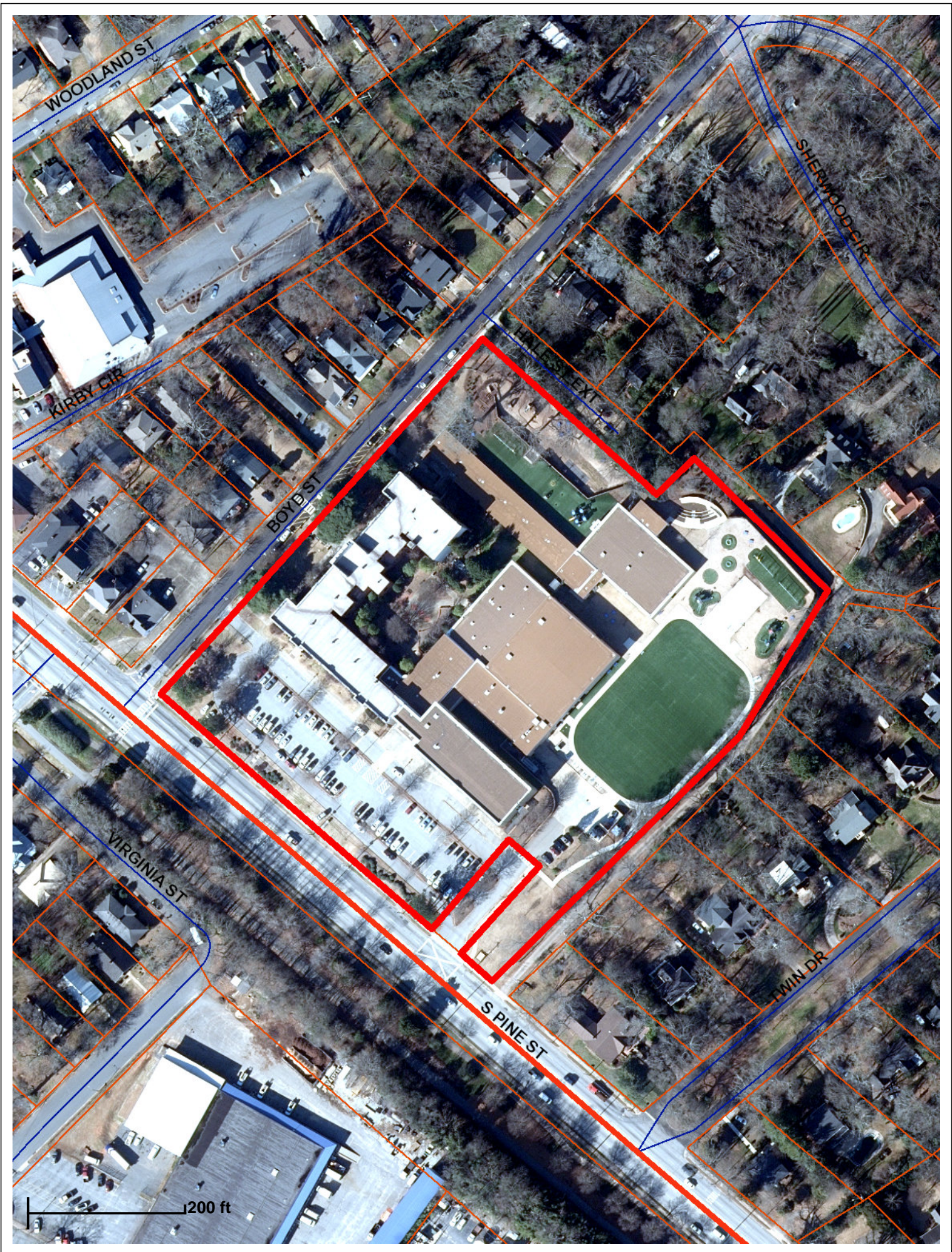
Name of Property

County and State

24. Floor 1, main corridor, looking north in front entry hall
25. Floor 1, main corridor, coffered ceiling detail in front entry hall
26. Floor 1, main corridor, capital detail in front entry hall
27. Floor 1, main corridor, looking north from front entry hall to main corridor
28. Floor 1, main corridor, looking south in main corridor through front entry hall
29. Floor 1, office, looking northeast in original principal office
30. Floor 1, main corridor, detail of original door trim
31. Floor 1, east stairway, looking southeast in stair hall
32. Floor 1, main corridor, looking south to south entrance
33. Floor 1, main corridor, looking north to main corridor
34. Floor 1, main corridor, terrazzo detail
35. Floor 1, south corridor, looking east to south corridor and addition beyond
36. Floor 1, south corridor, looking southwest in front entry hall
37. Floor 1, connector, looking southwest into historic building
38. Floor 1, southeast addition, looking southeast in corridor
39. Floor 1, central addition, looking southwest from corridor into media center
40. Floor 1, central addition, looking northeast from corridor into cafeteria
41. Floor 1, north 1950s building, looking southwest in single loaded corridor
42. Floor 1, north 1950s building looking northeast in classroom
43. Floor 1, north 1960s building looking east in single loaded corridor
44. Floor 2, main corridor, looking south through door lock from northwest balcony
45. Floor 2, main corridor, looking south to original door lock and southwest balcony
46. Floor 2, classroom, looking southwest
47. Floor 2, classroom, detail of original chalkboard trim
48. Floor 2, detail of new windows in original frame
49. Floor 2, bathroom, original window
50. Floor 2, connector between 1920s school and 1990s addition, looking southeast

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



WOODLAND ST

SHERWOOD CIR

KIRBY CIR

BOYD ST

VIRGINIA ST

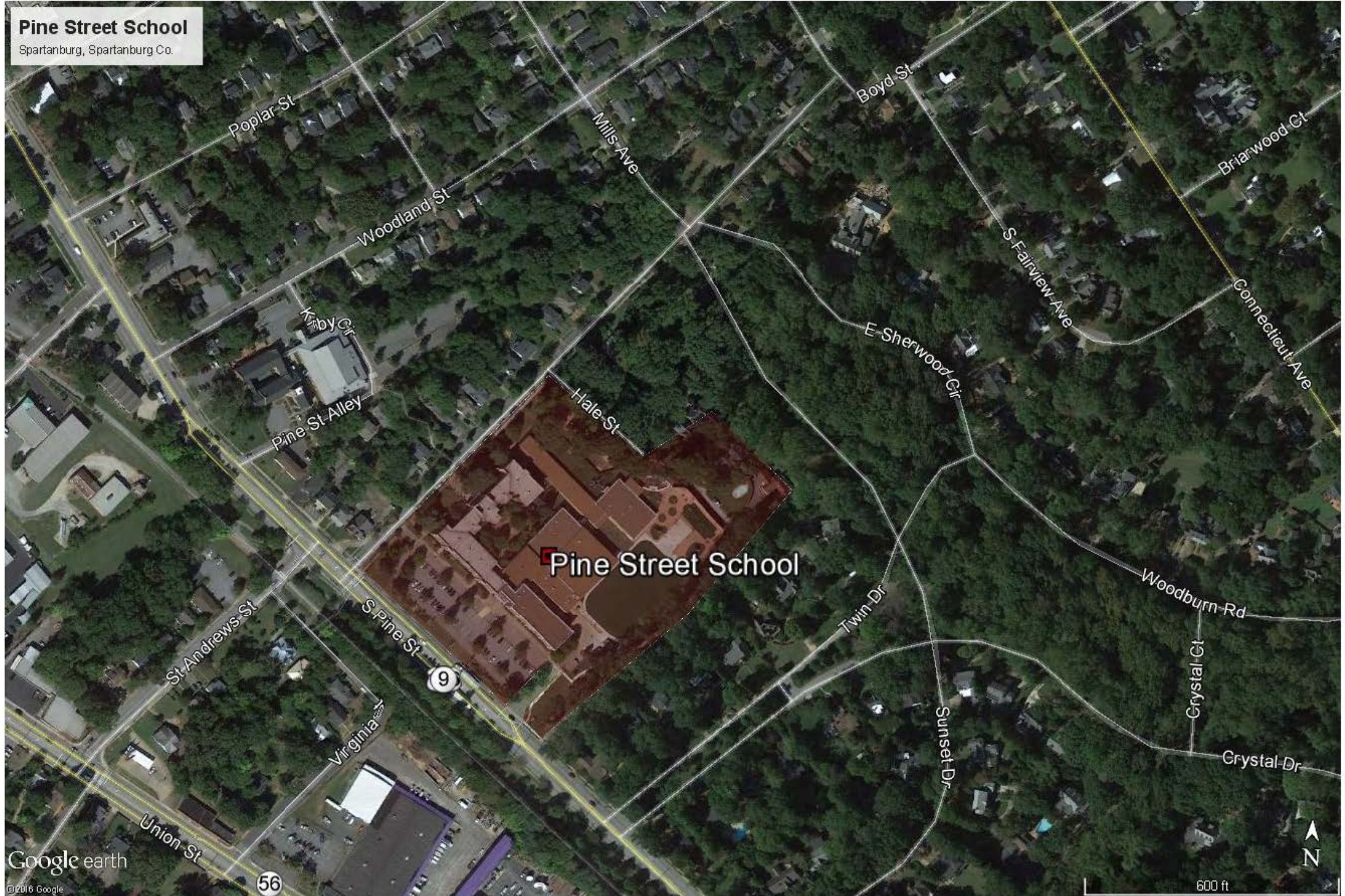
S PINE ST

TWIN DR

200 ft

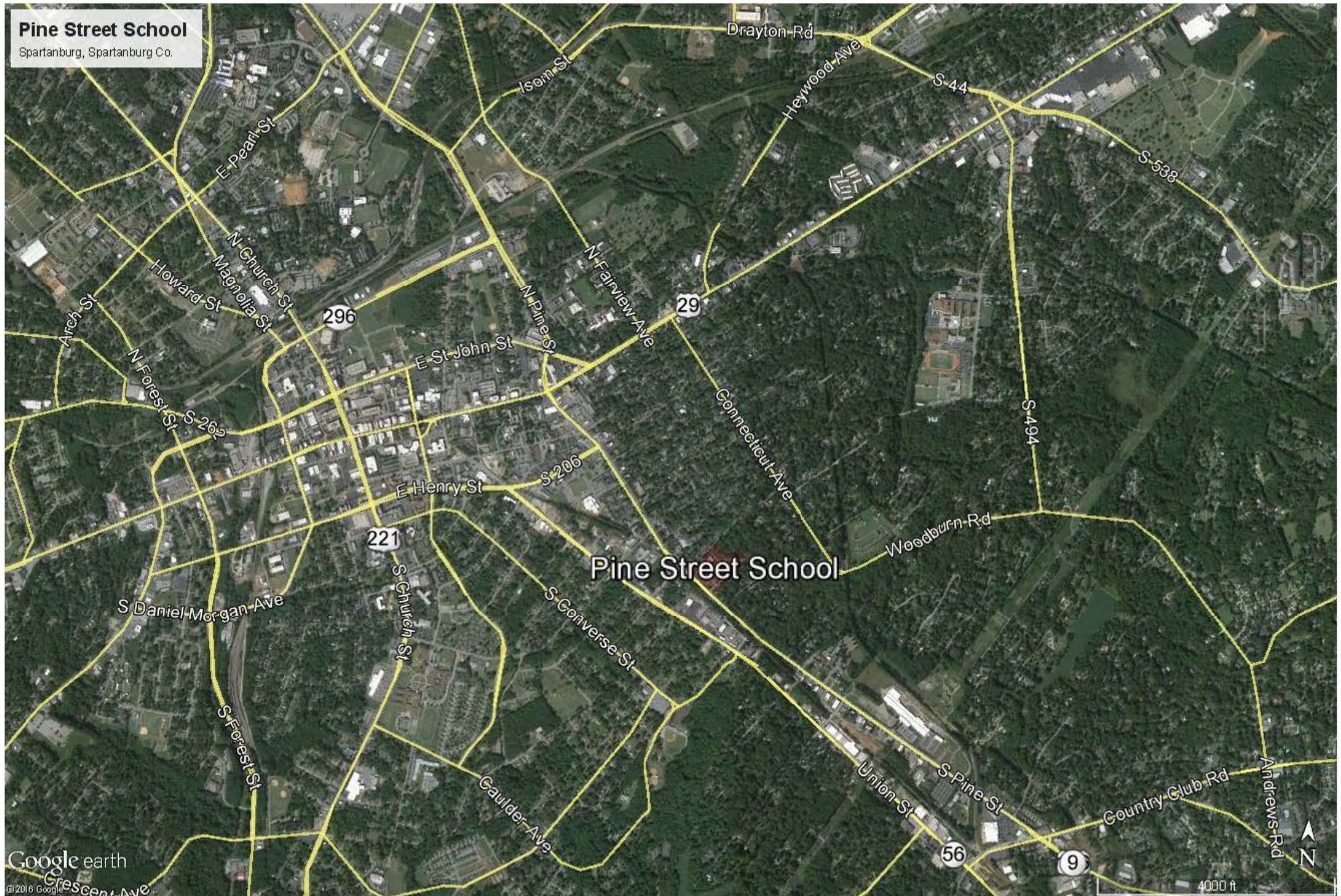
Pine Street School

Spartanburg, Spartanburg Co.



Pine Street School

Spartanburg, Spartanburg Co.



Pine Street School

Spartanburg, Spartanburg Co.





PINE STREET SCHOOL











ERECTED 1928-1929

"THAT OUR SONS MAY BE
AS PLANTS GROWN UP
IN THEIR YOUTH; THAT
OUR DAUGHTERS MAY
BE AS CORNER STONES,
POLISHED AFTER THE
SIMILITUDE OF A PALACE"

TRUSTEES

A. DEAN CUDD, M.D., CHAIRMAN
C. YATES BROWN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
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W. W. JENKINS, SECTY. & ASST. TREAS.

BUILDERS

CHARLES C. WILSON, ARCHITECT
W. PAUL WILLIAMS, ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT
W. A. CRARY & SON, CONTRACTORS













← PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
← SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE
← WESTERN ENTRANCE



















RESPECT

BOOK FAIR

CAUTION
WET FLOOR









RESPECT

RESPECT



EXIT

1











EXIT



Welcome to
Pine Street School











EXIT

25 YEARS
OF
EXCELLENCE

INC







GEORGIA

BULLDOGS





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Pine Street Elementary School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH CAROLINA, Spartanburg

DATE RECEIVED: 9/2/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY:

~~11/07/16~~
10.18.16

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000731

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10.17.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



August 29, 2016

Paul Loether
National Register Chief
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye (I) Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for Pine Street School in Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, South Carolina. The nomination was approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. We are now submitting this nomination for formal review by the National Register staff. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Pine Street School to the National Register of Historic Places.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6182, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at efoley@scdah.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ehren Foley", written over a horizontal line.

Ehren Foley, Ph.D.
Historian and National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
8301 Parklane Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29223