

PROPERTY NAME

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT

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United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

Historic Name: Watkinson Juvenile Asylum and Farm School

Other Name/Site Number: Watkinson School

**2. LOCATION**

Street & Number: 140 and 180 Bloomfield Avenue Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Hartford Vicinity: NA

Street & Number: 190 Bloomfield Avenue Not for publication: NA

City/Town: West Hartford Vicinity: NA

State: CT County: Hartford Code: 003 Zip Code: 06105, 06117

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

Ownership of Property

Private: x

Public-local:    

Public-State:    

Public-Federal:    

Category of Property

Building(s):    

District: x

Site:    

Structure:    

Object:    

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

   7   

   7   

Noncontributing

   2    buildings

   1    sites

    structures

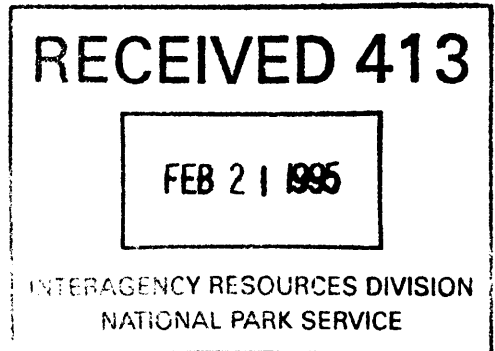
    objects

   3    Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National

Register:    1   

Name of related multiple property listing:    NA   



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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

02/15/95

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. 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):

*Edson H. Beall*

Entered on the National Register

3/23/95

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

PROPERTY NAME

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: EDUCATION Sub: school  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current: EDUCATION Sub: school  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne  
20TH CENTURY/Colonial Revival  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Materials:  
 Foundation: STONE, CONCRETE  
 Walls: BRICK, WOOD, SYNTHETICS  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roof: STONE/slate, ASPHALT  
 Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Watkinson School occupies 35.76 acres at the northwestern corner of the City of Hartford, and a contiguous 1/10 acre in West Hartford. There are nine buildings on the campus, clustered along Bloomfield Avenue and the drive into the campus. (Figure 2) Seven of the nine buildings contribute to the architectural and historical significance of the district. They are:

- Feringa Hall, centrally located and set well back from the Bloomfield Avenue entrance behind a broad expanse of lawn
- Francis Goodwin Hall, also in the center of the campus, across the roadway southwest of Feringa Hall
- The brick Art Barn, just inside the Bloomfield Avenue entrance, on the north
- A two-story frame garage east of the Art Barn
- The Headmaster's Residence, on Bloomfield Avenue immediately north of the entrance
- The Assistant Headmaster's Residence, next door to the north
- 140 Bloomfield Avenue, a Colonial Revival house at the northern end of a row south of the entrance

Two buildings are non-contributing because they are less than 50 years old:

- The Arts and Athletic Center, south of Feringa Hall and, with Francis Goodwin Hall, completing the triangle of three major central buildings
- A new building for faculty housing north of the Assistant Headmaster's Residence

Playing fields occupy more than half of the campus, to the southeast of the buildings.

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Hall (formerly Watkinson Hall),  
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION,  
tradition to the design of Francis  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
built in 1924, William D. Johnson,

Principal architectural interest lies in Feringa Hall (formerly Watkinson Hall), which was built in 1894/95 in the Queen Anne style, by Francis Goodwin. (Photographs 1 - 4) Francis Goodwin Hall was built in 1924, William D. Johnson, architect, with an addition in 1947 by Schutz & Goodwin and a later addition. (Photograph 5) The new (1991) large Arts and Athletic Center was designed by Jack Dollard. (Photograph 6) Secondary buildings include an early 20th-century brick barn (Photograph 7), three frame residences (Photographs 7 and 8), a Colonial Revival house (Photograph 9), and a shed. Feringa and Goodwin Halls are described here, the other buildings at the inventory later in this section.

Feringa Hall is a brick three-story structure with brownstone foundation and trim, wooden porches, oriel, and half-timbered gables. The plan is irregular, approximately 80' x 107', with polygonal bay and many projections and recesses. The broad south elevation has a high brick foundation with brownstone stringcourse which is an extension of first-floor window sills. Windows are 4-over-4 under flat splayed arches. Features at the first floor, from the west, are two pairs of windows, a wooden porch with octagonal columns (rebuilt in 1993), and a bay with five windows under transoms. The diagonal muntins in the transoms form a pattern of three crosses, framing diamond-shaped glazing. At the second floor the windows are in a 3-2-1 rhythm to the half-timbered bay of five windows under transoms of two tiers of glazing. The second-floor cornice over the five windows is elaborate, featuring double scotia moldings and a course of small dentil blocks. A large oriel at the eastern end of the elevation is supported by five tiers of wooden corbeling, has stucco surrounding its window, and is topped by a bell-shaped polygonal roof with finial. (Photograph 10)

Features at the third floor begin at the western end with a half-timbered gable end of curved timbers, over four large wooden consoles. Next is a slate-hung shed-roofed dormer before the large half-timbered gable over the bay. A tripartite window in the gable end has a transom over its central section, suggesting a Palladian influence. The gable peak is marked by strut and finial. The bargeboards of a small slate-hung gabled dormer toward the rear are embellished with heavy dentil courses.

The western elevation, facing Bloomfield Avenue, continues the brownstone stringcourse. Two windows occupy the first and second floors in the northerly projecting section, while a wooden porch with octagonal columns is in front of the recessed southerly section at the first floor, with a plain wall above. Four consoles support the half-timbered gable end of the projecting section. The slate hipped roof above is part of the complex gabled and hipped roof system, which includes banks of diamond-shaped chimneys and multiple iron skylights. (Photograph 3)

The south and west elevations, described above, are the primary elevations. The north and east are secondary. Windows in the north elevation, for example, have transoms of central vertical mullion, rather than diamond glazing, and no major porch. Projections and their gables are less pronounced. (Photograph 4)

On the interior, initially, the front of the building was the headmaster's residence and the balance was the school, consisting of residential quarters for students and faculty, kitchen, dining room, recreation space, and classrooms. The basement is high and well-lighted, and is now used for offices as well as boiler room and storage. On the first floor the western front door opens to a stair hall that was part of the headmaster's residence. (Photograph 11) Fireplace surrounds are buff brick with splayed flat arches and, in one instance, with wooden columns that echo exterior details. (Photograph 12) A 1983 first-floor plan (Figure 3) shows the principal east-west and north-south central

open spaces and dining and trophy rooms, now opened up and joined as a single dining space. (Photograph 13)

Upper floors were primarily residential as late as 1968, devoted to rooms for boys and faculty. (Figure 4) A central hall runs east-west. Its bead-board dado and paneled doors continue in place. (Photograph 14) The rooms, however, are now classrooms and offices. (Photograph 15) The third floor, like the basement, has high ceilings and is fully utilized.

Francis Goodwin Hall, a brick building on concrete foundation, was built in three sections. In the first part, the two-story front section contains classrooms, while the high one-story ell, built as a gymnasium, now serves as the school library. The central entrance on the east elevation is flanked at both floors by banks of three 2-over-2 windows with transoms. The entrance is Gothic-arched under a second-floor window with hood mold, thereby combining Gothic Revival details with an overall Colonial Revival design. The walls of the gymnasium have four banks of windows, between buttresses, giving almost continuous glazing under a high hipped roof which is supported by a complex truss system. The two-story first addition, now the middle part of the building, provides additional classrooms behind three banks of 1-over-1 windows (without dividing buttresses). Floor level of this section is lower than in the first part. The one-story second addition to the south, again at a lower floor level, is devoted to laboratories as the Newhall Science Center, named to honor Lawrence J. Newhall who served as headmaster from 1956 to 1968.

Earlier farm buildings and a chapel are no longer standing. The existing brick barn had a large U-shaped frame addition. Several long sheds for livestock stood north of Feringa Hall. A barn and creamery were built in 1914 to replace facilities destroyed by fire. A 1945 view still gives a sense of the campus as an operating farm. (Photograph 16) An A-frame chapel designed in 1953 by John W. Huntington was damaged by fire, and repaired, in 1958. In 1990 it was removed to make way for the new Arts and Athletic Center.

### Inventory

The first column indicates whether the building is contributing (C) or Non-Contributing (NC) to the historic and architectural significance of the property.

C/NC    Year    Description and architect, if known

#### 140 Bloomfield Avenue

C	1924	Two-story brick Colonial Revival house. Burton A. Sellew, architect. Purchased in 1955 as headmaster's residence, then used as library, now staff residence.
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#### 180 Bloomfield Avenue

C	1894	Feringa Hall. Three-story brick Queen Anne building. 18,554 square feet. Francis Goodwin, architect (attr.)
C	1924	Francis Goodwin Hall. Two-story brick classroom building, 51' x 103' with 3,244 square foot gymnasium. William D. Johnson, architect.

- 1947 Francis Goodwin Hall (cont.) Two-story addition. Schutz & Goodwin, architects, Robert H. Schutz, Jr., partner in charge.
- 1967 Newhall Science Center, one-story addition. Huntington, Darbee & Dollard, architects, Henry Darbee, partner in charge.
- NC 1992 Arts and Athletic Center. One and two-story Contextual frame building. Jung/Brannen Associates, architects, Jack Dollard, project designer. One-story half-round structure to west with apsidal roof and sunken amphitheater interior. Gymnasium east, over locker rooms. 22,000 square feet. Grade slopes off to south, giving level access to playing fields.
- C ca.1870? Brick Art Barn.
- C 1930? 2-story frame garage; vertical siding, gable-on-hip roof, broad eaves with exposed rafter ends.
- C 1900? Headmaster's Residence. Two-story frame house with synthetic siding, moved to this site, probably from farm to north.
- C 1910? Assistant Headmaster's Residence. Two-story frame house with synthetic siding.
- NC 1992 Two-story frame house with synthetic siding.
- 190 Bloomfield Avenue**
- NC Vacant land, 1/10 acre.

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:\_\_\_ Statewide:\_\_\_ Locally: x

Applicable National Register Criteria: A x B\_\_\_ C x D\_\_\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A\_\_\_ B\_\_\_ C\_\_\_ D\_\_\_ E\_\_\_ F\_\_\_ G\_\_\_

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance		Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1894</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1894</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>1862</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1881</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): Rev. Francis Goodwin

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Francis Goodwin; William D. Johnson; Schutz & Goodwin; Huntington, Darbee & Dollard; Jung/Brannen Associates

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

**Overview**

The Watkinson School Historic District is significant architecturally and historically because its cluster of buildings includes good examples of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles which work well together in the historic campus. Founded in the spirit of 19th-century philanthropy to care for disadvantaged boys, Watkinson School has survived and has successfully adjusted to changing standards in philanthropy and education, while maintaining a commitment to the needs of underprivileged youths.

**Architecture**

Watkinson School is significant architecturally because its principal historic building, Feringa Hall, is a good example of the Queen Anne style. Feringa Hall well exhibits the irregular plan, asymmetric massing, variety of materials, classical details, and active roof line associated with the style. It is in a good state of preservation, having been little altered since it was built.

The building has two front elevations, the south, initially providing entrance to the school's dormitory and classrooms, and the west, initially providing entrance to the headmaster's residence. Each has such features as a porch with octagonal wooden columns, projecting and receding wall planes, half-timbered gable, and gable-and-hip roofs. The central bay under large cross gable on the south is a dominant feature of the design, with staggered mass of the rear service area suitably set back to the east.

The basic red brick building material with red mortar joints was widely used toward the end of the 19th century. The brownstone sills and stringcourses were also contemporary. The splayed lintels look to classical precedent, as do the heavy consoles which support the gables. The bargeboards, gable-end finials, and large oriel are more particularly associated with the Queen Anne. The high gabled slate roofs, mixed with hipped roofs, are appropriate for the style and size of the building.

The many interior fireplaces are signalled by the many chimneys. Their flat splayed firebox arches and octagonal mantle columns repeat exterior window and porch details. In general, the interior is relatively plain. Beadboard dados and horizontally paneled doors are correct for the period and style, but are modest, in keeping with the charitable and utilitarian character of the school enterprise.

The design is attributed by tradition to the Reverend Francis Goodwin (1839-1925), Hartford's leading citizen of the turn of the century, who was reputed to be an amateur architect. Well-educated and widely traveled, he had great interest in architecture and exerted profound influence on important Hartford buildings and structures, including the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch (1884) and the contemporary Goodwin Building on Haynes Street. His proficiency as an architect is based on family reminiscences of a drawing table in his home and by professional-quality architectural drawings of the James Goodwin House (Goodwin Castle, 1871) which are signed Francis Goodwin.

Francis Goodwin was born to a wealthy Episcopal family in Hartford, studied for the ministry, and was ordained. After several years as pastor of Trinity Church, Hartford, he stepped down to devote full time to personal financial and civic interests. With his brother, James J. Goodwin, he was a highly successful investor and real estate developer, but is best remembered for his numberless civic and charitable activities. Highest on the list was his creation, with the Olmsted office, of a ring of six public parks in the city during the decade of the 1890s.

Francis Goodwin Hall, the school's second substantial building, is a conventional Colonial Revival schoolhouse, but with Gothic Revival details at the doorway and central second-floor window. William D. Johnson (1863-1939), its architect, had a substantial practice in non-residential buildings, and pursued other business interests as well. Before practicing architecture he worked as an engineer, which may explain the complex truss system of the Goodwin Hall gymnasium roof.

The architects of the 1947 Goodwin Hall addition were Schutz & Goodwin. Robert H. Schutz, Jr. (1903-1989) lived nearby on Prospect Street. His co-worker, H. Sage Goodwin (1904-), Francis Goodwin's great-nephew, is a painter as well as an architect. The evidence suggests that Schutz and Goodwin shared office space but worked individually. Rehabilitation of the Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, was one of the office's better known commissions.

The design of a 1990s frame building, the Arts and Athletic Center, near Feringa Hall, and approaching it in size, was a great challenge. The solution by Jack Dollard



(1929-) effectively adds to the campus a Contextual building which both respects its predecessor, Feringa Hall, and is identifiably a contemporary design. Dollard earlier practiced in the firm of Huntington, Darbee & Dollard, of which the senior partner was John W. Huntington, grandson of a trustee of Watkinson School, himself a trustee, resident across the street, and architect of the 1953 A-frame chapel.

### Education

The Watkinson School is significant in the history of education because it is an example of a school founded through 19th-century private philanthropy for disadvantaged boys that has made a difficult transition in the mid and late 20th century to a private school meeting contemporary standards.

The founder, David Watkinson (1778-1857), at age 19 came with his family from Suffolk, England, to Middletown, Connecticut. In 1801 he established a mercantile business in Hartford, trading with the West Indies for several years before West Indies trade was shut off in the precursor to the War of 1812, then engaging in the hardware and iron business. Watkinson prospered, became a founder of Hartford Fire Insurance Company, and had varied other interests. His will, which with many codicils runs to 85 printed pages, provides for a number of benefactions, including the Watkinson Library, and endowed a school for problem boys to be known as the Juvenile Asylum and Farm School. The school is mentioned at nine places in the will, often in association with the name Henry Barnard (1811-1900), Hartford's famed 19th-century educator, with whom Watkinson consulted regarding how the school was to be planned and operated. Specifically, it was to be patterned after European schools described in Barnard's book, National Education in Europe. The will left to the named trustees \$20,000, ten acres of land in north Hartford, and the Watkinson Prospect Street home.

The trustees first met and organized on August 15, 1860, electing Henry Barnard president, a post he held to 1880. During these two decades financial resources were carefully nurtured and increased to \$217,406, but a school was not started. In 1880 Francis Goodwin became president and a farm was promptly purchased in Park Street for a school pursuant to a resolution opposed by Barnard. The reason why Barnard opposed starting a school is not known.

In Hartford at the time, leadership in business, cultural affairs, and civic organizations was, in the 19th century manner, in the hands of a small group of individuals. The same men sat on various boards. Overlap between the Watkinson School and the Hartford Orphan Asylum trustees, for instance, was considerable. Watkinson financially supported the Orphan Asylum, and engaged the Orphan Asylum to manage Watkinson School in its first years. In 1884 a dormitory building for boys and headmaster was constructed to the design of George Keller (1842-1935). The building is still standing on Park Street, now Saint Anne's Rectory.

In 1892 Francis Goodwin bought the Prosser Farm of 123 1/2 acres at the corner of Albany and Bloomfield Avenues, immediately transferring ownership to the Handicraft Schools of Hartford, whose board membership was identical to that of the Juvenile Asylum and Farm School. The Handicraft Schools leased 47 acres to the Farm School, which built Feringa Hall (then Watkinson Hall) and other buildings, and operated as shown by Photograph 16 and Figure 1. While little is known of the Handicraft Schools, apparently it was an educational institution run concurrently with Watkinson. A Watkinson report

refers to the "Handicraft dormitory." A 1902 City Directory entry states that Handicraft Schools conducted a course of study in pomology, floriculture, botany, market gardening, and the like. In 1919 Handicraft Schools transferred the southern portion of the land to the Hartford Orphan Asylum, and moved the Handicraft buildings (not described) south, as well. The 10 building lots along Bloomfield Avenue were sold off as part of this real estate rearrangement, to raise cash. In 1949 Handicraft Schools terminated its affairs, at that time transferring title to Watkinson School for the land it had occupied since 1892.

The Juvenile Asylum and Farm School at both Park Street and Bloomfield Avenue was a working farm school. The boys raised livestock and crops, and studied in classrooms. Initially a grade school, it became a secondary school. The boys were boarding students. The number of students is recorded by Mason (Figure 5).

Watkinson's intent, in the best tradition of 19th century private philanthropy, had been to help boys who "are children of indigent parents, or whose parents or guardians are either vicious or incompetent." (Will, p. 13.) The trustees followed Watkinson's intent, concerning themselves with "neglected, vagrant and vicious youth." (Minutes, p. 20.) Implementation took the form of introducing order and discipline in the boys' lives through institutional living, as was customary at the time. The Boston Asylum and Farm School for Indigent Boys, founded in 1832, had shown the way. The approach combined asylum living with instruction in a vocation, farming, as opposed to binding out the boys in indenture to learn a trade, as often was done (Thurston, p. 46).

By the first quarter of the 20th century the program began to falter. The small staff proved inadequate to teach both farming and scholastic studies. The demand for farmers began to wither. In 1923 an effort toward improvement included a name change to Watkinson School, the 1924 construction of Goodwin Hall, and the establishment of two years of grammar school and four years of high school as the educational norm. But in 1927 grades 3 - 8 were stressed. Conditions are recorded in A History of the Watkinson School, 1862-1956 written by John A. Mason (d. 1981), a president of the board of trustees. In 1934 the State Commissioner of Child Welfare reported that Watkinson "was not filling a necessary place in the community" (Mason, p. 15) and was non-cooperative with other child welfare organizations. Thus, a school founded on idealistic 19th century philanthropy failed to meet the standards of 20th century professionals. Watkinson in a slow but steady decline became "a mediocre private school." (Mason, p. 16). On January 1, 1945, the school was discontinued. While the action was soon reversed, the school did, temporarily, cease to exist as an institution.

Revival of Watkinson School's fortunes began later that month when, on January 23, 1945, the Reverend Nicholas M. Feringa (1892-?) came from St. Paul's School, Peekskill, New York, to Watkinson School as headmaster. In his nine years of service he put into motion a turnaround that has carried through to the present. The curriculum was modified, the institution's self identity was clearly re-defined as a secondary school, and in 1968 boarding students were discontinued. Close community relationships were re-established. Watkinson adjusted to changing conditions and became the strong private secondary day school it is today, now with a student body of 185 boys and girls. Three sales of land, the last a parcel of 11 acres to provide funds towards the cost of the Arts and Athletic Center, have been made to the neighboring University of Hartford, with which a close working relationship has been developed. Progress continues under the firm direction of Charles E. Todd, member of the faculty since 1964 and head since 1971.

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Watkinson School has continued its commitment to the disadvantaged, in a variety of ways. Black and Hispanic students were recruited as early as the 1940s and 1950s, long before the practice was widespread in private secondary education. Through the 1960s residents at neighboring Children's Village, successor to the Hartford Orphan Asylum, were Watkinson students. The present budget of strong financial aid to students is instrumental in maintaining Watkinson's high percentage of students from urban areas. In 1990 Watkinson School became a member of the Coalition of Essential Schools, a national school reform movement based at Brown University, and in 1994 was one of four private schools in the 700-member coalition named a "model school."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Act Incorporating the Trustees of the Watkinson Juvenile Asylum and Farm School (Hartford: Williams, Wesley & Waterman, 1862).

Atlas of the City of Hartford, Conn. (Springfield, Massachusetts: L.J. Richards & Co., 1896).

Atlas of the City of Hartford, Conn. (Springfield, Massachusetts: L.J. Richards & Co., 1909).

Atlas of the City of Hartford and the Town of West Hartford, Connecticut (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1917).

Atlas of Hartford City and County (Hartford: Baker & Tilden, 1869).

Henry Barnard, National Education in Europe, (Hartford: Frederick B. Perkins, 1854), pp. 517-548.

City Atlas of Hartford (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1880).

Paul S. Boyer, Urban Masses and Moral Order in America (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1978).

Marion G.M. Clarke, David Watkinson's Library (Hartford: Trinity College Press, 1966).

City of Hartford Building Permits:

#62, March 28, 1904 (2-story 18' x 25' addition to existing 2-story brick 35' x 35' building)

#604, July 15, 1914 (concrete creamery, James Mfg. Co., Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin, architect)

#603, July 15, 1914 (36' x 100' frame barn, James Mfg. Co., architect)

#1755, July 18, 1924 (Goodwin Hall classrooms and gymnasium, Industrial Construction Co., builder)

#1185-H, September 27, 1946 (2-story addition to Goodwin Hall, 31' x 61', \$43,000, R.F. Bent Co., contractor)

M 1165, May 26, 1953 (24' x 46' frame 1-story chapel, Standard Builders, Inc., contractor)

B-916-HC, August 5, 1955 (remove wooden stair [Feringa Hall] basement to third floor; rebuild with steel and concrete, Standard Builders, Inc., contractor)

B-5263-HC, February 27, 1958 (repair damage caused by fire to chapel, Standard Builders, Inc., contractor)

Geer's Hartford City Directory, 1902, entry for Handicraft Schools of Hartford, p. 889.

Joseph M. Hawes, Children in Urban Society (New York: Oxford University Press, 1971.)

-----  
Edward F. Heberger & Associates, Inc., Real Estate Appraisal, Watkinson School  
(Cheshire, Connecticut: 1990).

Hartford Land Records:

volume 222, page 418, April 30, 1892, Levi Prosser to Francis Goodwin  
232/92, Jan 19, 1894, Francis Goodwin to Handicraft Schools  
233/23, February 3, 1894, Handicraft Schools lease to Watkinson Juvenile  
Asylum and Farm School  
380/584, December 2, 1912, Francis Goodwin to Handicraft Schools, release of  
all restrictions, in case of sale  
488/227, December 20, 1919, Handicraft Schools to Hartford Orphan Asylum  
856/370, November 3, 1949, Handicraft Schools to Hartford Orphan Asylum, to  
correct 488/227  
856/372, November 1949; Handicraft Schools to Watkinson School  
986/271, December 1956; Alice May Kenyon to Watkinson School, 140 Bloomfield  
Avenue  
1045/239, June 1960: Watkinson School to First Unitarian Congregational  
Society, 6 acres

J. Paul Loether, Feringa Hall, Connecticut Historical Commission Historical  
Resources Form, February 11, 1985.

John A. Mason, A History of the Watkinson School, 1862-1956 (West Hartford,  
Connecticut: 1957).

Minutes of Trustees of Handicraft Schools.

Minutes of Trustees of Juvenile Asylum and Farm School Appointed by the Will of  
David Watkinson.

David F. Ransom, "Biographical Dictionary of Hartford Architects," The Connecticut  
Historical Society Bulletin 43(Winter/Spring 1989)1-2:43.

E.B. Smead (first principal of Juvenile Asylum and Farm School), "25 Years with the  
Boys," 1909.

Henry W. Thurston, The Dependent Child (New York: Columbia University Press, 1930).

Watkinson News, Special Watkincentennial Edition, 1981.

West Hartford Land Records, Volume 262, page 558, April 1954.

The Will and Codicils of David Watkinson of Hartford, Conn. (Hartford: Case,  
Lockwood and Company, 1858).

PROPERTY NAME

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT

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United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register. 140 Bloomfield Avenue is a contributing property in the Hartford Golf Club Historic District, West Hartford, CT
- 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: Specify Repository: Connecticut State Library, Watkinson School

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreege of Property: 35.76

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4629110</u>	<u>689980</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>4628980</u>	<u>689980</u>
C	<u>18</u>	<u>4628950</u>	<u>690200</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>4628630</u>	<u>690350</u>
E	<u>18</u>	<u>4628570</u>	<u>690100</u>	F	<u>18</u>	<u>4628760</u>	<u>690080</u>
G	<u>18</u>	<u>4628720</u>	<u>689940</u>	H	<u>18</u>	<u>4628980</u>	<u>689840</u>
I	<u>18</u>	<u>4628960</u>	<u>689790</u>	J	<u>18</u>	<u>4629110</u>	<u>689700</u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is shown by the dotted line at Figure 2.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the land which is now owned by the school.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Architectural Historian

Date: October 3, 1994

Street/#: 33 Sunrise Hill Drive

City/Town: West Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06107

Telephone: 203 521-3387

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Photograph 1

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall, view north

## Photograph 2

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall, view east

## Photograph 3

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall, roof line, view east

## Photograph 4

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall, view southwest

## Photograph 5

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Francis Goodwin Hall, view southwest

## Photograph 6

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Arts and Athletic Building,  
view southeast

## Photograph 7

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Headmaster's residence and brick  
barn, view northwest

## Photograph 8

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Principal's residence and staff  
residence, view northeast

## Photograph 9

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
140 Bloomfield Avenue, view east

## Photograph 10

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall oriel, view northwest

## Photograph 11

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall front stair, view northwest

## Photograph 12

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall fireplace, view east



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Photograph 13

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall Trophy Room, view  
northwest

## Photograph 14

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall Trophy Room, second  
floor hall, view southeast

## Photograph 15

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall, second floor room  
on south, view southwest

## Photograph 16

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Aerial view north, ca.1945

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Figure 1

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Richards 1896 Atlas, Plate 18

## Figure 2

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Site plan

## Figure 3

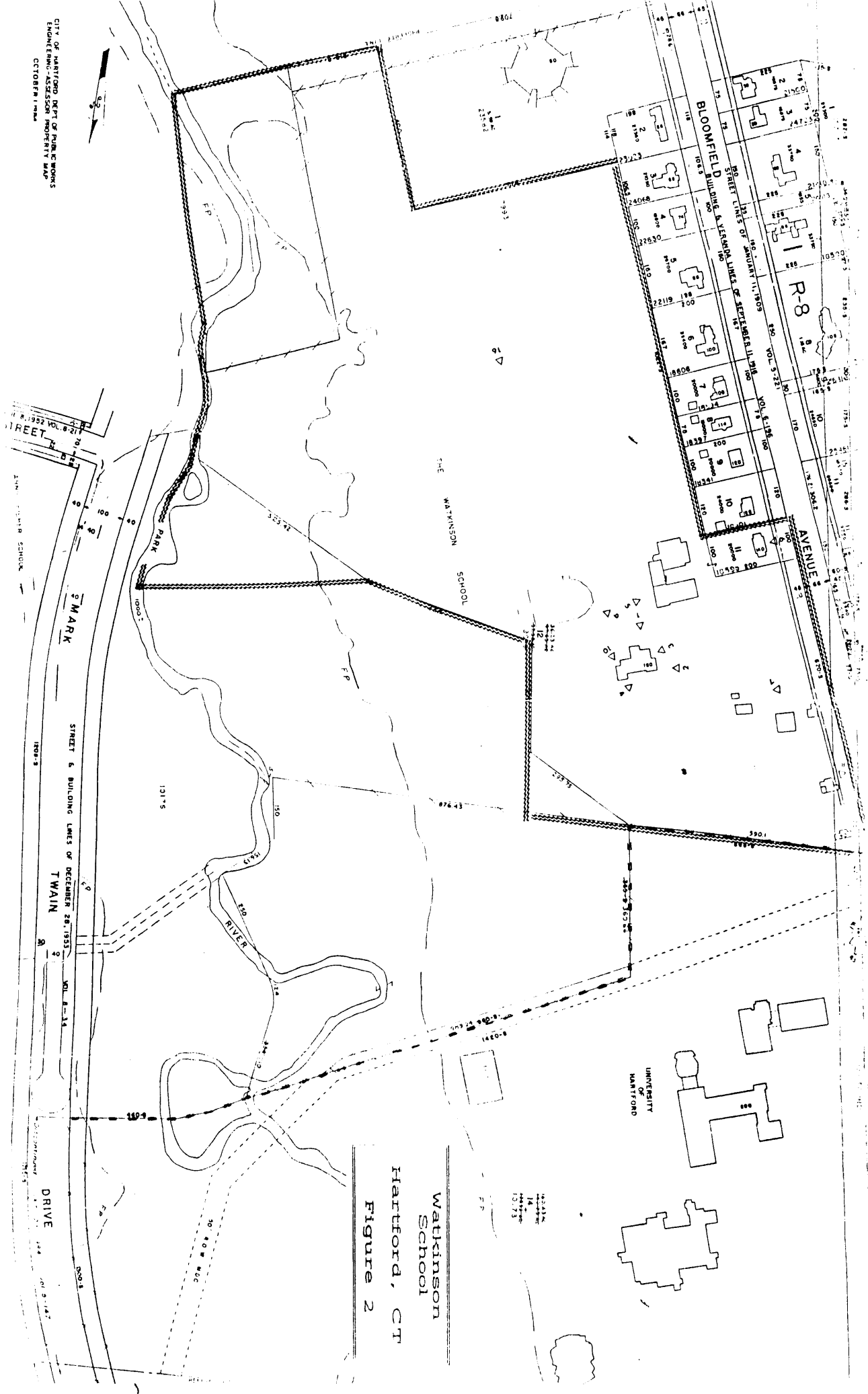
Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall, first floor plan

## Figure 4

Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Feringa Hall, second floor plan

## Figure 5

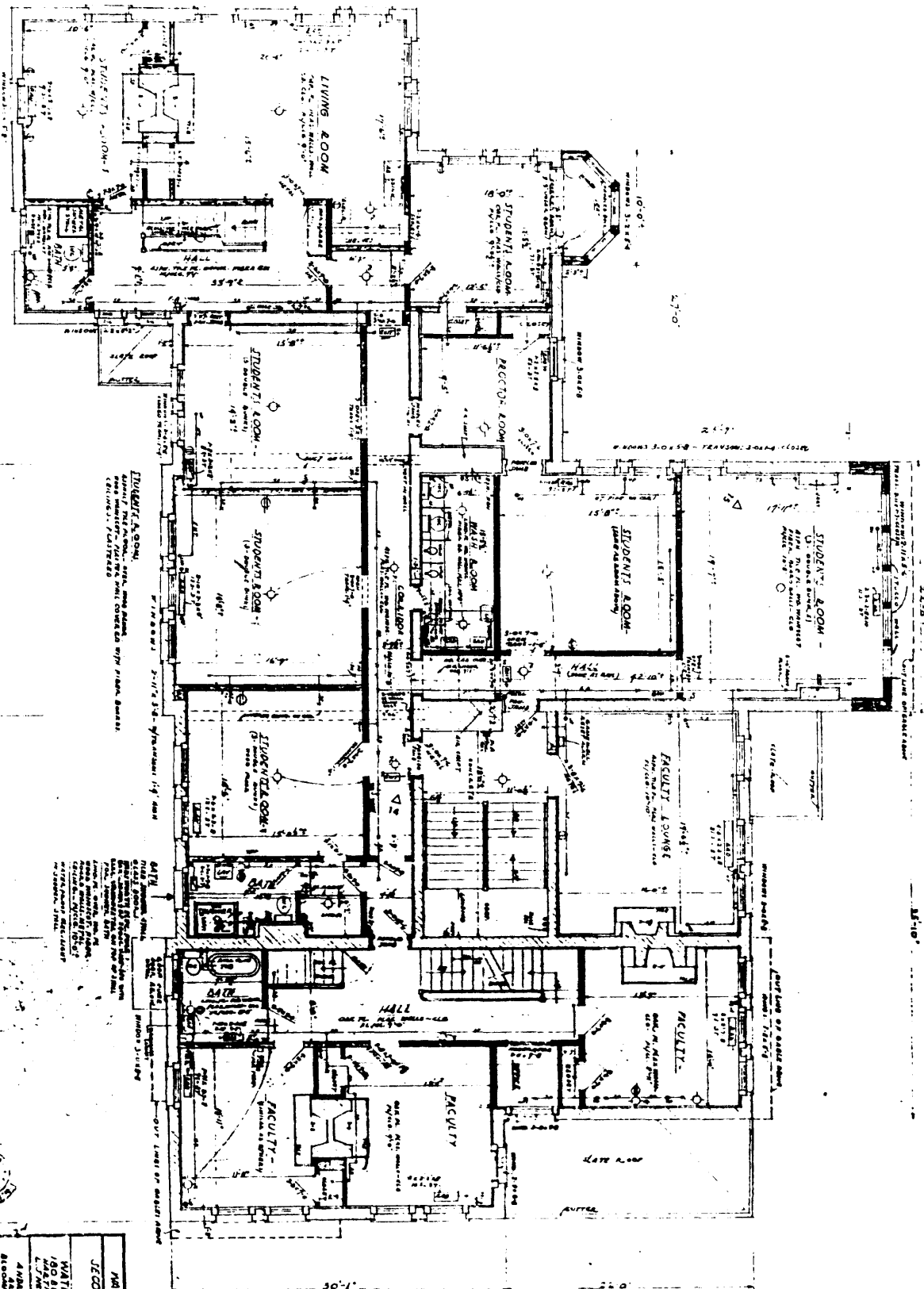
Watkinson School, Hartford, CT  
Mason, Appendix C



Watkinson  
 School  
 Hartford, CT  
 Figure 2

CITY OF HARTFORD DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 ENGINEERING-ASSESSOR PROPERTY MAP  
 OCTOBER 1984





**Watkinson  
School**  
**Hartford, CT**  
**Figure 4**

WATKINSON HALL
JEDON FLOOR PLAN
WATKINSON SCHOOL
100 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
ARCHITECT
ANDRE J. JANET
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT
100 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06103

## APPENDIX C

(see page 17 of text)

## ENROLLMENTS

The following enrollment figures have been compiled from the minutes of the Board of Trustees; from reports of the Principal; from The Hartford Courant and The Hartford Times; and from editions of the School paper - The Watkinsonian.

## I. Sample Years

1889 - 1935

1889 - 26

1895 - 28

1923 - 20

1926 - 21

1927 - 32

1930 - 26

1931 - 23

1932 - 22

1933 - 25

1935 - 31

## II Period: 1945 - 1956

1945 - 60

1946 - 80 (5 day students)

1947 - 85 (7 day students)

1948 - 92 (4 day students)

1949 - 80 (6 day students)

1950 - 76 (7 day students)

1951 - 78

1952 - 75 (13 day students)

1953 - 90

1954 - 102 (30 day students)

1955 - 86 (30 day students)

1956 - 67 (25 day students)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Watkinson School</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hartford, CT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Figure 5</b></p>
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John A. Mason, A History of the Watkinson School, 1862-1956 (West Hartford, Connecticut, 1956), p. 25.