

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 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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Barron Drive

not for publication

city or town Institute

vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Kanawha code 039 zip code 25112

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 X statewide ___ local

Susan M. Pierce Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 2/19/21
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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:

X 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:)

Barbara Wyatt 3-31-21
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival

foundation: _____

walls: BRICK

roof: SLATE

other: _____

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location and setting.)

Summary Paragraph

See Continuation Sheets

Narrative Description (Describe the details of the interior and exterior of the property. Use continuation sheet as needed.)

See Continuation Sheets

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

Period of Significance

1926-1955

Significant Dates

1928, 1930, 1950

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wysong & Jones

Period of Significance (justification)

See Continuation Sheets

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See Continuation Sheets

Historic Context (Provide background history that supports the Statement of Significance. Use continuation sheet as needed)

See Continuation Sheets

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See Continuation Sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 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): KA-7356

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>432612</u> Easting	<u>4248135</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

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

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See Continuation Sheets

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Elswick, Architectural Historian, and Courtney Zimmerman, Architectural Historian
organization Aurora Research Associates, LLC date May 22, 2019
street & number 1436 Graham Road telephone 304-685-7410
city or town Silver Lake state Ohio zip code 44224
e-mail seelswick@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

City or Vicinity: Institute

County: Kanawha State: West Virginia

Photographer: Courtney Zimmerman and Sarah Elswick

Date Photographed: October 25, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

See Continuation Sheets

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County and State

Property Owner:

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

name West Virginia State University
street & number PO Box 1000 telephone 304-766-3000
city or town Institute state WV zip code 25112

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 18 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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property Kanawha County, West Virginia
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind is located on Barron Drive in Institute, Kanawha County, West Virginia. Institute is approximately seven (7) miles west of Charleston, the capitol of West Virginia. It is located between Interstate 64 and the Kanawha River. The West Virginia State University is located to the northeast and a large industrial plant is located to the northwest. The south-facing building is located on a large flat river valley lot and was once part of a large complex of modern-era buildings, many of which have been demolished. The structure is a two-story brick Neoclassical institutional building with a U-shaped plan and a hipped slate roof. The symmetrical front façade is dominated by a two-story Corinthian portico.

Setting

The original setting of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind has been compromised by construction and additions since the 1950s. The site for West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind was selected due to its proximity to West Virginia State University, the state’s land-grant Black university. At the time of its completion, it was the only building within the large open area of land to the west of campus and had a rural setting with a combination of open fields and trees. Buildings were added to the WVSCDB over the years, including an auto garage (1931) and gymnasium (1950). After the property’s transition to the Rehabilitation Center in 1955, the open fields south of the original school building were filled with sprawling one-story institutional structures. Long, narrow additions extending 480’ to the south and 300’ to the north were added to the 24’ x 50’ 1931 garage (all extant). The F. Ray Power Building was constructed to the north in 1974 and served as administrative offices for the Rehabilitation Center. After WVSU acquired the property in 2013, a majority of the Rehabilitation Center buildings to the south of the WVSCDB were demolished. The F. Ray Power Building was renovated in 2019 by WVSU for classroom and office space. The 1950 gymnasium, having been extensively altered and converted to office space by the Rehabilitation Center, was demolished in 2020. The property to the west of the parcel has been an industrial /chemical manufacturing site since 1947.

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind 1926 1 Contributing Building

Exterior:

Constructed in 1926, this three-story, eleven-bay brick building has a hipped slate roof. The building originally consisted of the central building block with two detached two-story wings located behind and oriented perpendicular to the central structure (Photo 1). The building is a formal Neoclassical design dominated by a two-story portico across the central three bays. The ground floor forms the base of the building and is demarcated with a pronounced sandstone water table band above the ground floor windows. The main entrance and *piano nobile* are located on the first floor and are accessible via a large split staircase with cast iron railing leading to the portico. The portico consists of Corinthian

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columns: two sets of paired columns at each corner and two single columns spaced evenly across the front. The columns appear to be constructed of cast stone. There are single wood pilasters where the portico meets the wall. The wood cornice and pediment contain dentils and modillions and a semi-circular fan-shaped window within the tympanum.

The main entrance is a double door, currently covered with plywood, with a surround consisting of pilasters, entablature, broken pediment, and a 5-light transom. Windows on the ground story consist of simple rectangular openings currently covered with plywood. Windows on the first story are 12-over-1 vinyl sashes each with a brick blind arch lintel with stacked header pattern and stone keystones, springers, and sills. Windows on the second story are 12-over-1 replacement vinyl sashes beneath a brick solder course at the top of the wall. The windows in the bay to the left of the portico have been infilled with brick on all three stories. Air conditioning vents have been installed beneath most of the windows on the ground and first stories.

The central structure has two-story hipped-roof wings extending from the east and west elevations that were originally open-air covered porches. They were enclosed after 1943 and now contain paired 6-over-1 wood sash windows in the south elevation bay and paired 8-over-1 wood sash windows in each of the three bays on the east and west elevations. The ground story windows are covered with plywood. The top story of the central structure on the east and west elevations above the porch wings is three bays and contains windows similar to the front façade.

The two rear wings are each 5 bays wide and 9 bays long and have hipped asphalt shingle roofs. These were originally freestanding structures connected to the central building via covered walkways. The east and west elevations of the wings contain tall window openings with brick flat arches and stone keystones and sills. The fourth and sixth bays from the front (central structure) have larger arched window openings that have been clad with stucco. The fifth bay on the west wing contains a deeply recessed service entrance covered in white and green-flecked glazed tile. The windows on the upper story consist of 6-over-1 aluminum sashes with stone sills in each bay. There are air conditioning vents installed above the ground floor level sporadically. The rear elevation of each wing formerly contained 5 window openings with brick flat arch and stone keystone. Two windows on each rear façade have been infilled with brick and the rest are covered in plywood. Two single door openings have been added to each rear wing elevation.

The rear wings were connected to the central structure by two-story brick hyphens. Each hyphen is three bays long and contains three paired 6-over-6 aluminum sash windows. The hyphen on the east elevation has a deeply recessed ground floor with a steel column supporting the structure above and various boarded openings. The west hyphen contains two boarded window openings. A one-story flat-roof addition behind the central structure linking the two hyphens may have been constructed at the same time. Later, a one-story flat roof addition was constructed to fill the entire courtyard between the wings, and consists of a band of 12 metal frame windows currently boarded with doors on either end and a deep overhang metal fascia roof.

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Interior:

The main entrance hall is located on the first floor off the south portico. A single glass-paned wood door with five-light transom five-light sidelights leads into a modestly sized hall. The building has been divided into standard-sized offices on the ground and first floors and the finishes replaced throughout with drop ceilings, commercial vinyl tile flooring and drywall. The enclosed side porches on the central structure have drop ceilings, drywall and carpeted floors. Two staircases are symmetrically located on the north side of the central structure, with additional staircases at the north end of each wing. The stairs appear to have been replaced with metal commercial units in the 1950s and have simple metal bar balusters, square metal newel posts and wooden handrails. Restrooms throughout the building are commercial-style and appear to date from the 1960s.

The second floor of the central structure retains a higher level of integrity than the ground and first floors. The rooms on the third floor are surmised to originally have been dormitory rooms and retain their original footprints, in contrast to rooms on the other floors, many of which have been partitioned. These rooms retain the original plaster walls as well as some original baseboard moldings and wooden doors. The original window trim has been removed.

Additions and Alterations

Exact dates for the additions and alterations described could not be ascertained. Newspaper articles from 1955, when the property became a rehabilitation center, show open porches and detached rear wings. Although newspaper articles published between 1956 and the late 1960s frequently mentioned funding appropriations, planned improvements and bid results for construction at the Rehabilitation Center, minimal detail was included regarding the projects. Based on the interior finishes and alteration materials, it is surmised that the bulk of the alterations and additions to the original West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind structures were completed between 1956-1965, with the exception of the vinyl sash windows on the front façade, which were installed after the property was acquired by West Virginia State University in 2013.

Integrity

The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind retains exterior historic integrity as it relates to Criterion A. The location, exterior materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association are largely intact, particularly in the central structure. The Neoclassical brick façade, slate roof, original portico and most other architectural details remain. The interior of the building has been substantially altered as a result of its conversion to offices for the Rehabilitation Center. Some evidence of the original finishes remains on the second floor. Despite subsequent additions and alterations, the exterior of the property still conveys its original design and significance as the first and only educational institution for deaf and blind African American children in West Virginia.

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WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and
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N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under *Criterion A: Education* as well as *Ethnic Heritage: Black* for its role in West Virginia's educational and black history. The Period of Significance is 1926 to 1955, beginning with the opening of the school and ending with the school's closure as a result of the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, which desegregated public schools. After this decision, Black students were integrated into the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Romney.

Black West Virginians and Education

West Virginia had a small Black population when it became a state on June 20, 1863. At the time, approximately 21,144 Black people, including 2,773 free Black and 18,371 enslaved Black persons, lived in West Virginia.¹ The first state Constitution called for the gradual emancipation of slaves; however, slavery was officially abolished with the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The state saw considerable growth in the Black population during the late 1800s and early 1900s. After the Civil War, Black people migrated into West Virginia and other northern states from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee in search of higher wages and better economic opportunities. In West Virginia, they found employment constructing the railroad lines for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, Norfolk & Western Railroad, and Virginian Railroad. Many decided to stay after the completion of the railroads to work in the southern West Virginia coalfields. As the need for more coal miners increased, coal companies sent agents to the south to recruit Black people. By 1917, one in every three miners in the Pocahontas coalfield of southern West Virginia was Black.² Between 1860 in the counties that would become the state of West Virginia and 1950, the population of Black people increased statewide from 21,144 in 1860 to 114,867 in 1950.³

Early education of Black children in the state occurred via a variety of avenues including private programs developed by both Black and white citizens, the U.S. Freedman's Bureau, missionaries and public schools. Black people took the initiative and established their own schools in many communities. In 1862, Black people living in Parkersburg founded the first Black school in what would become West Virginia. Other schools for Black students opened in Wheeling, Clarksburg, Charleston, Martinsburg,

¹ "West Virginia Population by Race" *West Virginia Division of Culture & History*. Web.

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/teacherresources/censuspopulationrace.html> Accessed 12 February 2019.

² Nick Musgrave, "Black Coal: the African-American Miners of West Virginia Southern Coalfields." Web. 12 February 2019

³ "West Virginia Population by Race" *West Virginia Division of Culture & History*. Web.

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/teacherresources/censuspopulationrace.html> Accessed 12 February 2019.

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Charles Town and Malden. These schools were often private and held classes in nearby homes and churches.⁴

The 1872 State Constitution addressed the education of free Black children but included a provision that stated “white and colored persons shall not be taught in the same school.”⁵ As the Black population increased so did the need for public education and teachers. Laws permitted the establishment of Black schools only wherever there were 30 Black students between the ages of 6 and 21.⁶ This number was later reduced to 10 Black students. Once the population requirements were met, public elementary and high schools began springing up in many communities. As a result of the increase in schools, additional Black teachers were needed to teach in the new schools. Schools in West Virginia hired Black teachers from Ohio and Pennsylvania until in-state colleges could prepare Black students for the teaching profession. The first college, Storer College in Harpers Ferry, was established in 1865 and trained Black students who aspired to become teachers. In 1891, the West Virginia Colored Institute - now West Virginia State University - was founded as the first Black land grant college in the state and began training Black students for the teaching profession.⁷

Establishment of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

The West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Romney was established in 1870 but served only white children. Prior to 1926, West Virginia did not have a school for Black children who were deaf or blind. A small number of parents sent their children to attend the Overlea School for the Deaf and Blind in Baltimore, Maryland. Their expenses were covered by the state of West Virginia and drawn from funding given to the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney. Some families thought Maryland was too far to send their children and began advocating for a school in West Virginia.

In 1919, three Black state legislature delegates, T. G. Nutter of Charleston in Kanawha County, Harry J. Capehart of Keystone in McDowell County, and John V. Coleman of Fayette County sponsored legislation for a colored school for the deaf and blind. They included a provision that required the superintendent and entire staff be of the Black race. On February 8, 1919, the West Virginia legislature passed legislation establishing a state institution to be known as “the Colored Deaf and Blind Schools” for Black children between the ages of 8 and 25.⁸ The legislation also asked the State Board of Control and a committee of three Black citizens who were appointed by the Governor to select a location for the

⁴ Bickley, Ancella. “African-American Education.” E-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 5 February 2016. Web. 9 February 2019.

⁵ “1872 Constitution of the State of West Virginia.” Web.

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/government/1872constitution.html>. Accessed 12 February 2019.

⁶ Bickley, Ancella. “African-American Education.”

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ambler, Charles H. *A History of Education in West Virginia: From Early Colonial Times to 1949*. Huntington, West Virginia, Standard Printing & Publishing Company, 1952.

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school and provide building plans.⁹ They selected a 19 ¾ acre site in Institute (Kanawha County), West Virginia near the West Virginia Colored Institute (now West Virginia State University).

Charleston-based architects Wysong & Jones were hired to design the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind. Alphonso F. Wysong (1881-1944) was born in Newport, Giles County, Virginia and established an office in Princeton, West Virginia in the early 1900s. He designed residences, schools, businesses, the Wyoming County Courthouse (1916), Gilmer County Courthouse (1924) and Charleston Municipal Auditorium (1939). After World War I, Wysong and architect Thomas P. Jones established Wysong & Jones with offices in Princeton and Charleston. West Virginia Secretary of State Records indicate that the firm of Wysong, Tufts and Jones was established in 1920; it was reorganized several times with other partners in addition to Wysong and Jones and was dissolved in 1932.¹⁰ The firm designed the Physical Education buildings at Concord Normal School¹¹ (Athens) and the New River State School¹² (Montgomery) in 1923, a residence building at the Bluefield Colored Institute in 1924¹³ and a junior high school at Marmet in 1930¹⁴. According to census records, Jones was born about 1887 in Pennsylvania. In 1910, he was living in Falls Creek, Pennsylvania and was listed as an architect. In 1920, he was working as a draftsman in Mercer County and by 1940, was back in Falls Creek, living with family and noted as having been unemployed for 39 weeks with a usual occupation of architect. Jones was a charter member of the West Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1922, along with Wysong and other notable local architects including Walter Martens and H. Rus Warne and a number of others.¹⁵ Jones died in 1948 in Falls Creek at the age of 61¹⁶.

Construction of the main building which included administrative offices, dormitory, dining room, and classrooms began in 1925 and was completed the following year. Miller and Devine, a construction company based in Fairmont, was the contractor.¹⁷ The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind opened on September 14, 1926 with 28 students. Over the years, the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind campus expanded to five buildings. In 1928, the one-story West Building was constructed behind the main building and provided space for classrooms and a braille library for the blind as well as a playroom. A matching East Building housing classrooms for deaf students soon followed in 1930. Another building constructed in 1931 housed a garage and space for a mop and broom making shop.¹⁸ The 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Photo #10) depicts the campus's early layout. By 1948, the school included a main structure, two one-story brick buildings that were used for

⁹ Barnes, Uriah. "West Virginia Code, Chapter 45, Education." Web. 1923.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.35112105119962;view=lup;seq=1039> 25 February 2019.

¹⁰ West Virginia Secretary of State Business Organization Search.

¹¹ "Physical Education Buildings at Concord State Normal School," *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, May 9, 1923, p 11.

¹² *Charleston Daily Mail*, August 5, 1923, p 9.

¹³ "Residence Campus of Bluefield Colored Institute," *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, April 23, 1924, p 15.

¹⁴ *Charleston Gazette*, May 18, 1930, p 7.

¹⁵ "Architects Plan Anniversary Fete", *Charleston Gazette*, Nov 16, 1947, p 11.

¹⁶ "Thomas P. Jones Falls Creek Architect, Dies." *Dubois Courier Express*. March 4, 1948, p 1.

¹⁷ Ancella Bickley, "In Spite of Obstacles...", 13.

¹⁸ Bickley 20.

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classrooms and one one-story building used as a garage, storage, and student workshop. Historic photographs from a 1930 Report of the West Virginia State Board of Control indicate that the west one-story rear wing housed the school for the blind and the east wing house the school for the deaf.¹⁹ The final building added to this campus was an auditorium/gymnasium designed by Charleston black architect John C. Norman in 1950.²⁰

School Curriculum and Operation

The purpose of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind was to train the students to be self-sustaining and to function in society with as little handicap as possible. Its educational curriculum consisted of learning sign language and other communication methods, subject instruction, and vocational training. Young deaf students were taught to communicate by an oral method and a manual method. The oral method consisted of making sounds, speaking, and reading lips while the manual method involved using sign language to communicate.²¹ Teachers taught blind students the braille system of reading and how to use devices such as the talking-book machine, braille writers, and radios. In addition to learning how to communicate, students were taught subjects including reading, math, history, geography, language, government, physiology, and physics. Between 1927 and 1934, vocational programs were introduced to teach students skills such as barbering, beauty culture, shoe repairing, tailoring, cleaning and pressing, chair caning, mop and broom making, rug weaving, leather craft, and home economics.

Between 1926 and 1951, 102 deaf and 68 blind students were admitted to the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind. Approximately 35 deaf and blind students received a vocational certificate.²² A total of 11 deaf and 15 blind students completed high school, 2 deaf students received a college degree, and 3 blind students received master's degrees.²³

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court heard the case *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. The justices ruled that separating students based on race was unconstitutional. As a result, West Virginia began the process of integrating schools and the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind was one of the institutions that closed. Black deaf and blind students were transferred to the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, Hampshire County, West Virginia. In 1955, the West Virginia Legislature repealed legislation for the Schools for the Colored Blind and Deaf and the school's final commencement ceremony was held on May 26, 1955.^{24,25}

¹⁹ "School for the Blind..." and "School for the Deaf...", WV History on View.

²⁰ Bickley 51.

²¹ "Special Report, Silver Anniversary, The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind, 1926-1951."

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ "Article 18. West Virginia School for the Colored Deaf and Blind." *West Virginia Code*. Web.

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/WVCODE/Code.cfm/Bill_Status/ChapterEntire.cfm?chap=18&art=18§ion=1 Accessed 25 February 2019.

²⁵ Bickley 54.

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Post Segregation

The State of West Virginia saw many schools for Black students close in the years following the Supreme Court decision. With it came a loss of Black professionals, educational memorabilia, and historical perspectives. Black teachers, coaches, and principals had a difficult time finding positions in the integrated schools.

In 1955, the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind property became a rehabilitation center for the blind and severely disabled. The West Virginia Board of Education opened the Rehabilitation Center on August 1, 1955 to prepare individuals for employment.²⁶ Clients received training in auto mechanic repair, business administration, computer science, radio and TV repair, upholstery, sewing, and small appliance repair as well as rehabilitation services.

As the demand for services increased, ten new buildings including dormitories and sheltered workshops were constructed between 1955 and 1975. In 1956, a sum of \$40,000 was appropriated for “repair and remodeling necessary to adapt buildings for use as a rehabilitation center at Institute.”²⁷ In March 1956, a legal advertisement for bids for “Alterations and Addition, Rehabilitation Center, Institute” was published in newspapers and stated that contract bids were available at the offices of architect Henry Elden and Associates.²⁸ Bowers and Chilton, Inc. of South Charleston received the construction contract for the project.²⁹ A large addition designed by Elden was approved by the state in 1957³⁰, but was ultimately rejected when construction bids exceeded the project budget.³¹ Nevertheless, construction of new additions and buildings continued through the late 1950s and 1960s.^{32, 33}

The West Virginia Rehabilitation Center continued to operate until 2007 when it ceased offering vocational and rehabilitation services; however, the Division of Rehabilitation Services continued to use the site for administrative offices until 2011. In June 2013, West Virginia State University acquired the entire West Virginia Rehabilitation property which contained 15 buildings and nearly 20 acres.³⁴ A majority of these structures have since been demolished due to poor condition and lack of function within West Virginia State University’s campus.

²⁶ “Valley Deaf and Blind Center to Be Shop For Disabled.” *Charleston Daily Mail*. 8 April 1955. P. 14.

²⁷ “State Again Ranks 3rd in Rehabilitation Job,” *Charleston Gazette*, Jan 1, 1956, p 22.

²⁸ “Advertisement for Bids,” *Charleston Gazette*, Mar 28, 1956 p 22.

²⁹ Herb Little, “Board Awards Contract for Concord Work,” *Charleston Daily Mail*, April 10, 1956, p 17.

³⁰ “Board Will Study Expansion of Rehabilitation Center,” *Charleston Gazette*, June 9, 1957, p 17.

³¹ “2 Contracts Awarded for College Projects,” *Charleston Gazette*, July 11, 1957, p 13.,

³² “Rehabilitation Center at Ripley Discussed for WVU Medical Center,” *Morgantown Dominion-News*, July 29, 1959, p 3.

³³ “\$525,000 Given to State Center,” *Charleston Gazette*, August 21, 1963, p 13.

³⁴ “West Virginia State Acquires Former Rehabilitation Center Property.” *West Virginia State University*. Web.

<http://www.wvstateu.edu/announcement/2013/06/17/West-Virginia-State-Acquires-Former-Rehabilitation.aspx> Accessed 12 June 2019.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State
N/A

Section number 8 Page 6

Summary

The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind property is significant at the state level and recommended eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its role in Black ethnic and educational history. The 1926 West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind educated deaf and blind Black children during segregation. In addition to the West Virginia standard school curriculum, the students were taught how to communicate using lip reading, sign language, and braille and provided with vocational training in order that each student would become a productive member of society after graduation. The design of the program was equivalent to that of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, the only comparable resource in the state. The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind property is also significant for its role in Black history. As the number of Black people in the state increased, schools and colleges for Black students were established throughout West Virginia. The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind was the only institution in West Virginia which educated Black students who were deaf or blind. Prior to the establishment of this school, no specialized curriculum for deaf and blind Black students was available in the state so students were forced to seek an education in neighboring states.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and
Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State
N/A

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and
Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State
N/A

Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and
Blind

Name of Property

Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State

N/A

Section number 9 Page 3

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The recommended National Register boundary of the West Virginia School for the Colored Deaf and Blind includes the historic school building as well as the historic roads, alleys and parking lot surrounding the structure, consisting of alleys on the east (30 feet) and west sides (20 feet) as well as Campus Drive on the south (55 feet) and a portion of the parking lot on the north (55 feet). The boundary is identified on the accompanying "Site Map and Photo Key" and includes a part of the tax parcel: district 25, map 34, parcel 39.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary encompasses the entire resource with historic additions (the main building and attached two wings) of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind. This boundary does not include the entire tax parcel due to lack of historic integrity of surrounding land that was historically associated with the resource but no longer contributes to the property's historic significance. The selected boundary encompasses but does not exceed the extent of the historic resources and historically associated land area. The boundary includes those historic elements of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind but does not include buffer zones and/or acreage and/or peripheral areas that lack integrity or do not directly contribute to the significance of the property. The property is bounded to the south by the remnants of the former Campus Drive, to the east by the site of the former gymnasium, to the north by a parking area representing the historically open space to the rear of the building and to the west by the former auto garage/workshop which lacks historic significance and integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 1

PHOTO LOG

Name of Property:	West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
City or Vicinity:	Institute
County:	Kanawha
State:	West Virginia
Photographers:	Courtney Zimmerman and Sarah Elswick
Date of photographs:	October 25, 2018
Location of Original Digital Files:	1436 Graham Rd Silver Lake, OH 44224

Number of Photos: 9

Photo #1: South façade, camera facing north

Photo #2: South Façade, portico, camera facing north

Photo #3: Oblique view of the central structure, camera pointing northwest

Photo #4: Side view of the east façade and wing, camera pointing northwest

Photo #5: Oblique view of east wing, camera facing southwest

Photo #6: Rear (north) facade, camera facing south

Photo #7: View of rear courtyard infill addition (ca. 1960), camera facing south

Photo #8: Oblique view of west wing, camera facing south

Photo #9: View of the portico architectural details, camera facing north

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 2



Photo 1: South façade, camera facing north



Photo #2: South Façade, portico, camera facing north

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Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 3



Photo #3: Oblique view of the central structure, camera pointing northwest



Photo #4: Side view of the east façade and wing, camera pointing northwest

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 4



Photo #5: Oblique view of east wing, camera facing southwest



Photo #6: Rear (north) facade, camera facing south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 5



Photo #7: View of rear courtyard infill addition (ca. 1960), camera facing south



Photo #8: Oblique view of west wing, camera facing south

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 6



Photo #9: View of the portico architectural details, camera facing north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 1

LIST of FIGURES

Name of Property:	West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
City or Vicinity:	Institute
County:	Kanawha
State:	West Virginia

Number of Figures: 5

Figure #1: "Demolition Plan – First Floor – Electrical." Silling Associates. *West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services: West Virginia Rehabilitation Center New Fire Alarm – Building 'C'*. Construction documents on file at West Virginia State University, Institute, WV. January 15, 2011.

Figure #2: "Demolition Plan – Second Floor – Electrical." Silling Associates. *West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services: West Virginia Rehabilitation Center New Fire Alarm – Building 'C'*. Construction documents on file at West Virginia State University, Institute, WV. January 15, 2011.

Figure #3: "Demolition Plan – Third Floor – Electrical." Silling Associates. *West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services: West Virginia Rehabilitation Center New Fire Alarm – Building 'C'*. Construction documents on file at West Virginia State University, Institute, WV. January 15, 2011.

Figure #4: Excerpt, 1933 Dunbar, WV Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

Figure #5: Aerial View of Wertz Field, 1937 (Source: Abandoned and Little-Known Airfields, www.airfields-freeman.com/WV/Airfields_WV_SW.htm#wertz, Paul Freeman/Rick Harshbarger).

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 2

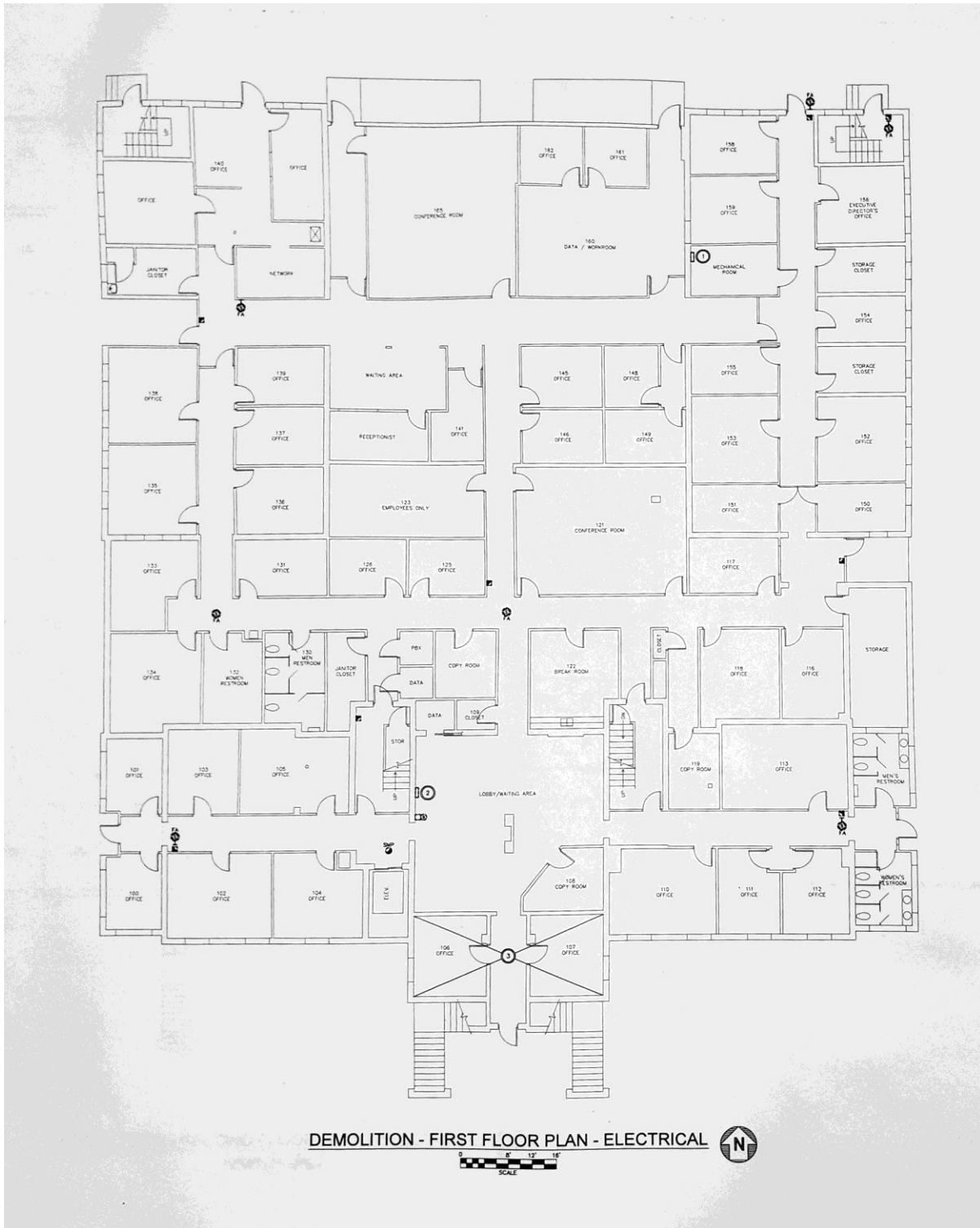


Figure 1. First Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 3

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

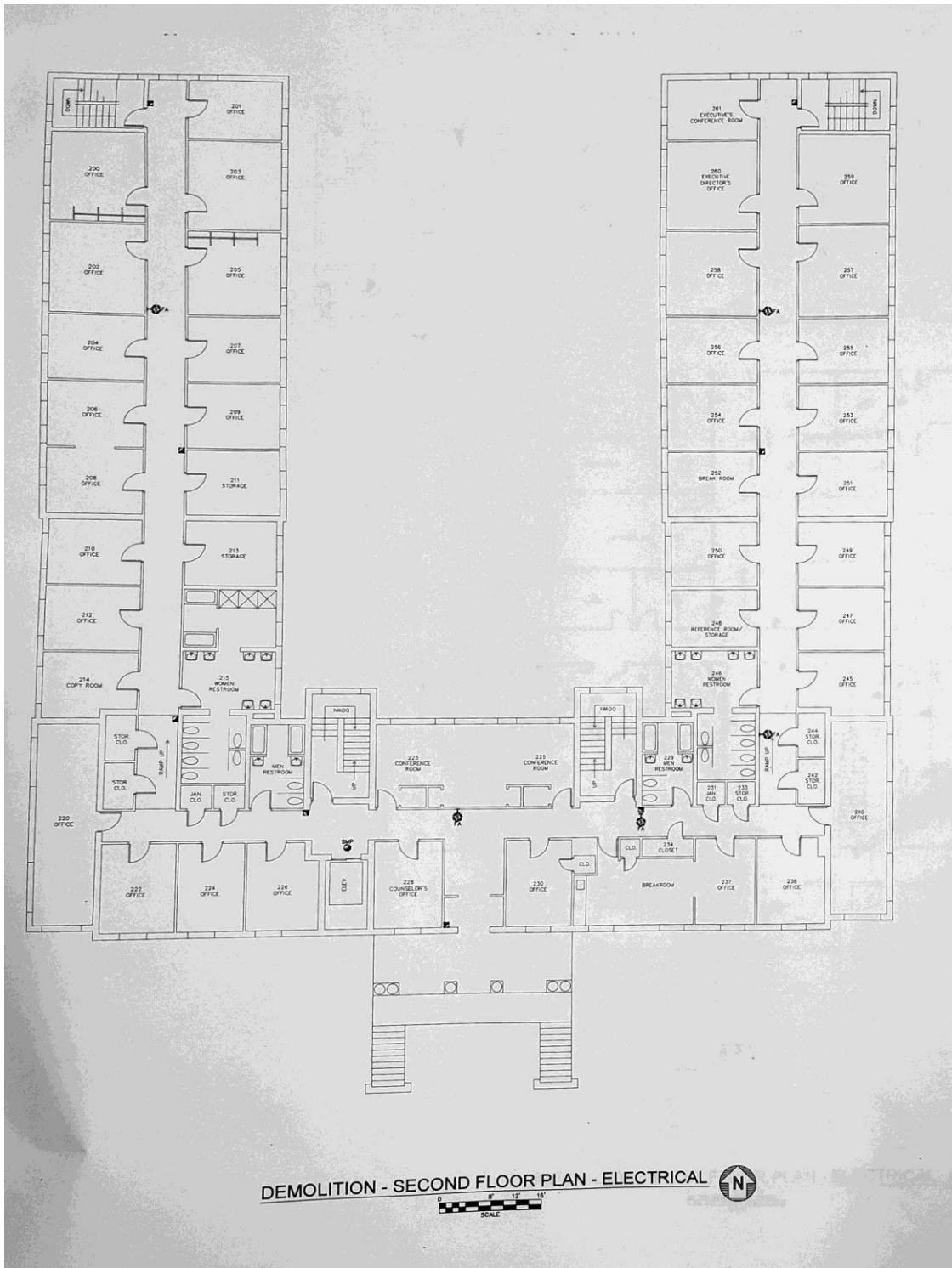


Figure 2. Second Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

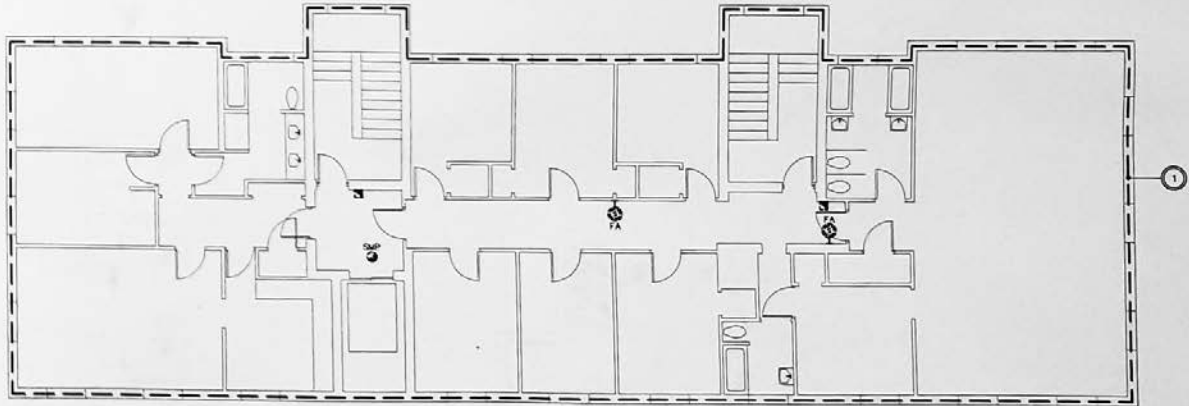
Section number Figures Page 4

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



DEMOLITION - THIRD FLOOR PLAN - ELECTRICAL



Figure 3. Third Floor Plan

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 5

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

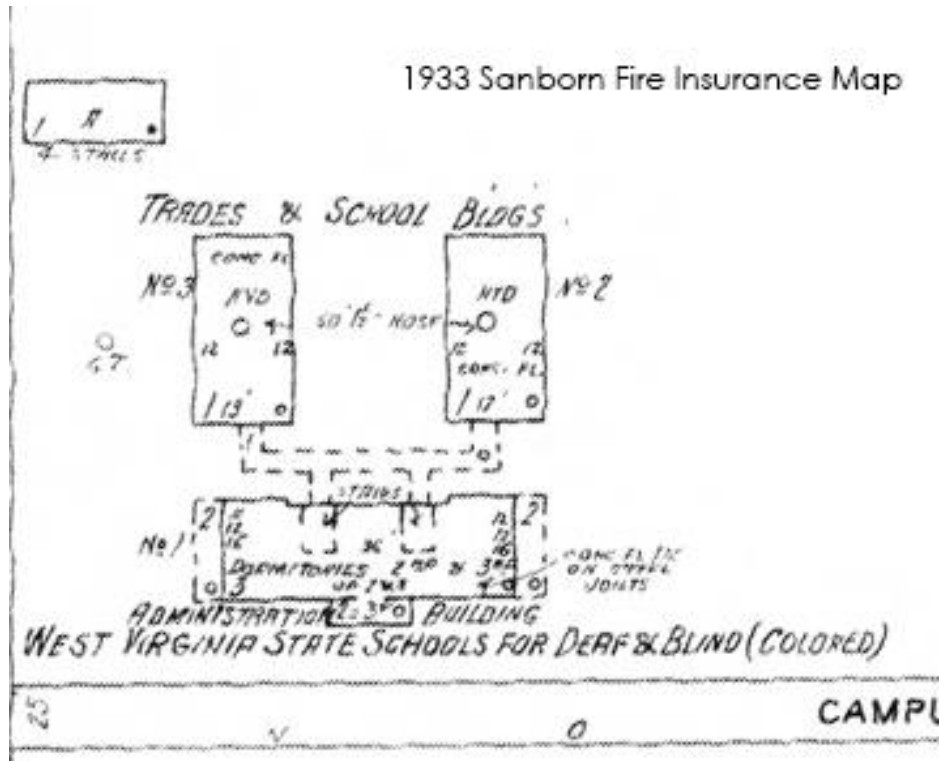


Figure 4. Excerpt, 1933 Dunbar, WV Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Building and wings prior to infill additions

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 6

WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

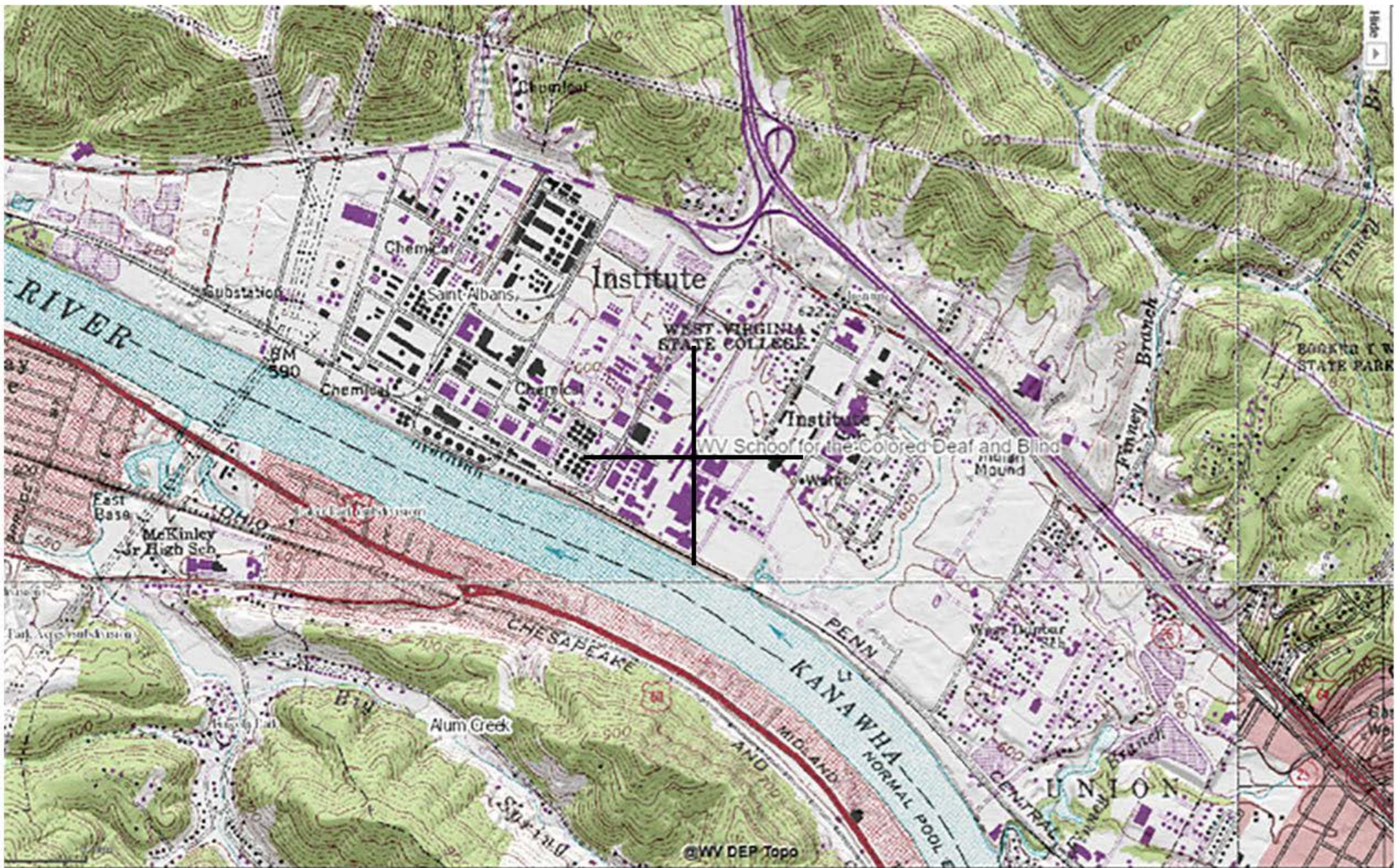
Name of Property
Kanawha County, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



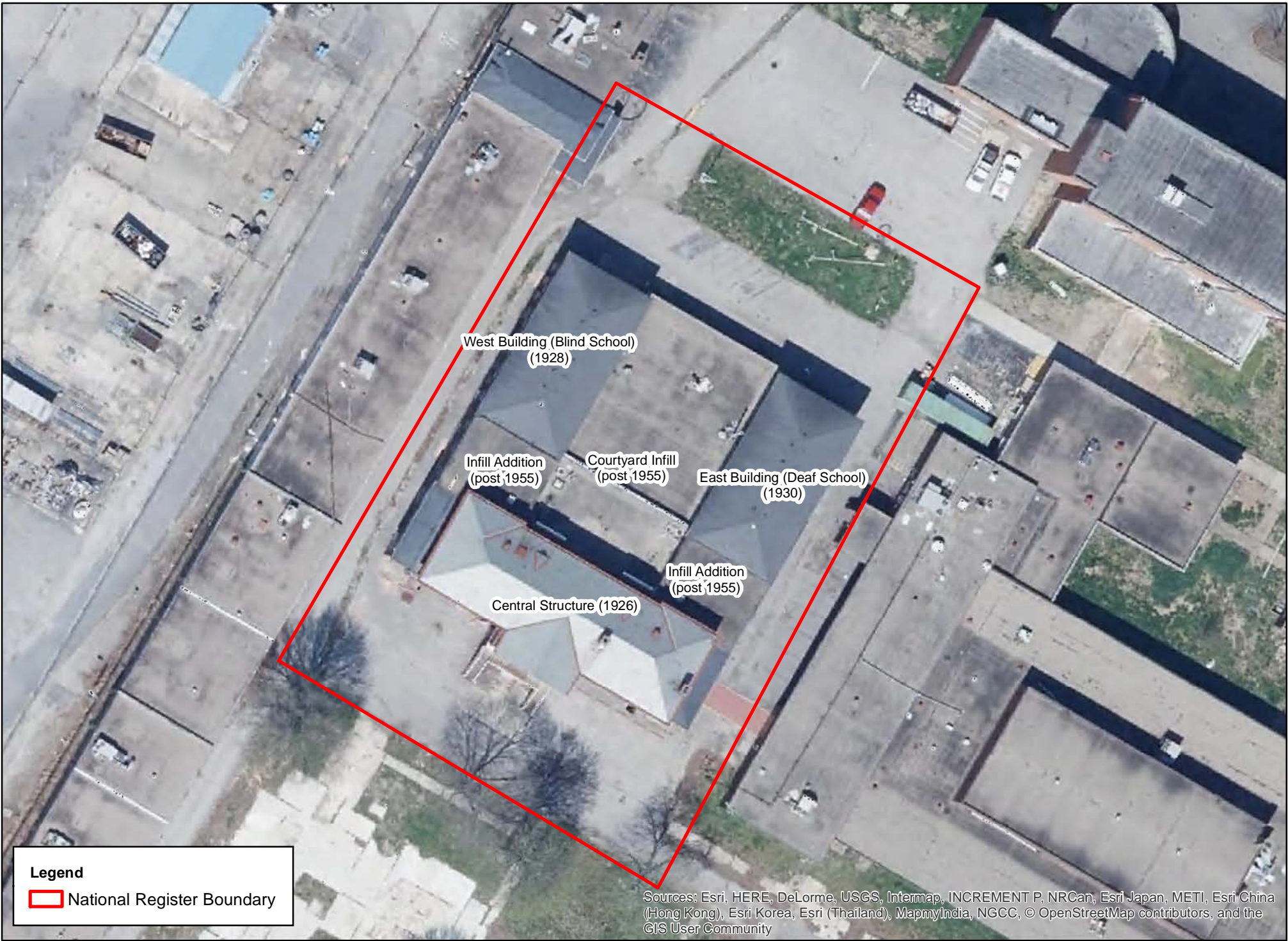
Figure 5. Aerial View of Wertz Field, 1937
Building and wings prior to infill additions



WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind National Register Nomination
Institute, Kanawha County, WV
UTM Coordinates: Easting 432612, Northing 4248135

USGS Topo Map
St. Albans Quad
Zone 17N 1983





Legend
[Red Outline] National Register Boundary

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community







Classical portico with four white columns and a pediment. A white staircase with a metal railing leads up to the portico. The entrance door is partially boarded up.

Second floor windows with decorative arched lintels. A white downspout runs vertically along the side of the building.

Ground floor windows, some of which are boarded up with plywood. A white downspout runs vertically along the side of the building.

Third floor windows and a brick chimney on the roof. The building features a decorative cornice.

Corner of the building showing second and third floor windows. A white downspout runs vertically along the side of the building. A circular light fixture is mounted on the brick wall.







C

MAIN ENTRANCE
TO BUILDING - C



MAIN ENTRANCE
TO BUILDING - C

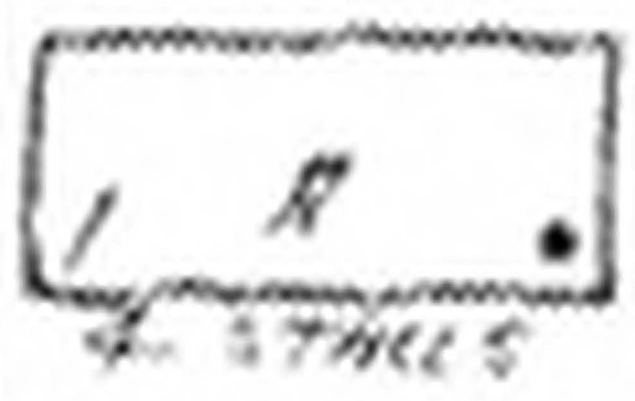


C

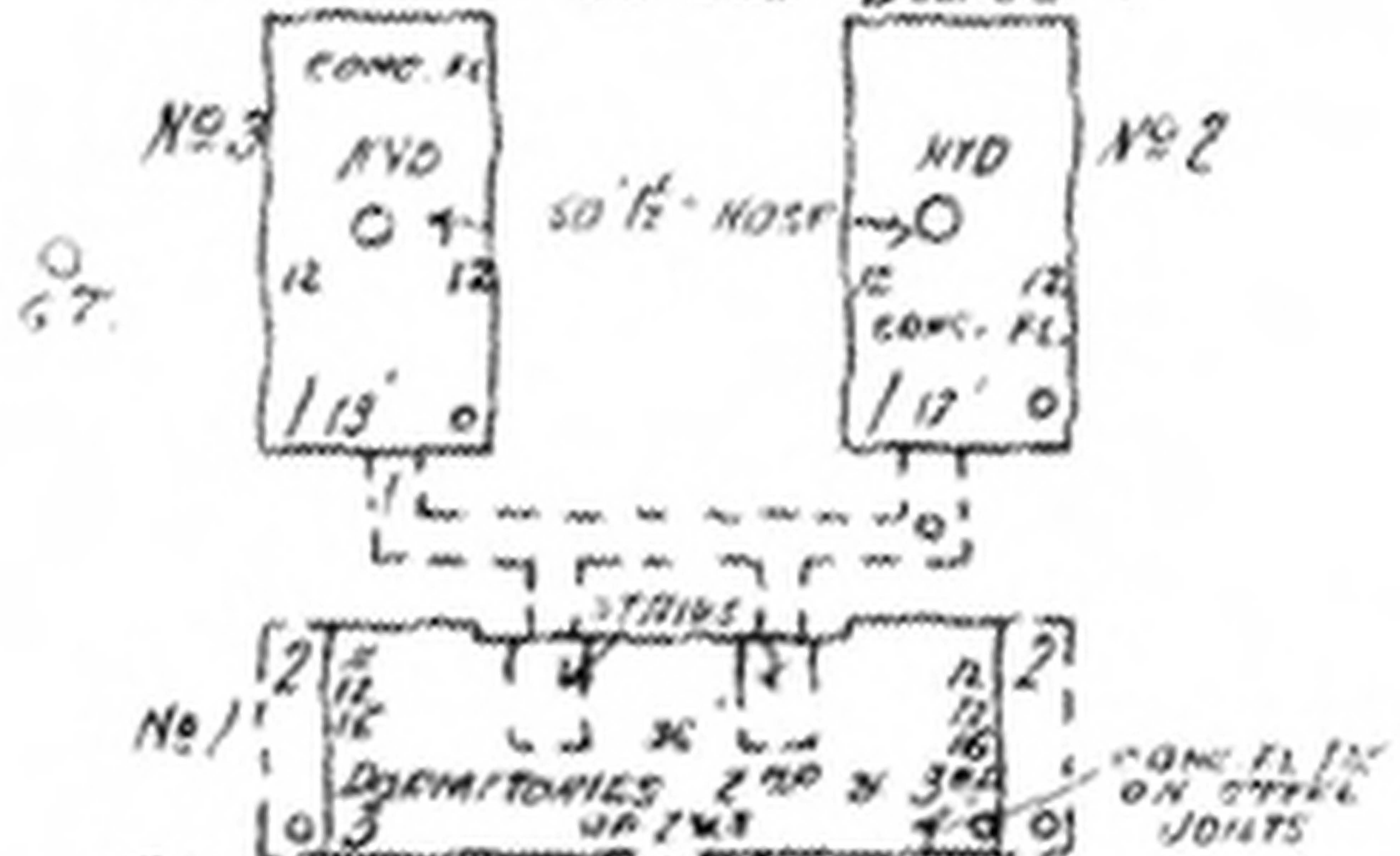
MAIN ENTRANCE
TO BUILDING - C



1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



TRADES & SCHOOL BLDGS.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

WEST VIRGINIA STATE SCHOOLS FOR DEAF & BLIND (COLORED)

13

N

0

CAMP

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.



December 19, 2019

The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner

Phone 304.558.0220 • www.wvculture.org
Fax 304.558.2779 • TDD 304.558.3562

EEO/AA Employer

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register Program
1849 C Street NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

For your review, we are submitting the National Register of Historic Places registration form for the following property:

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind, Kanawha County, WV

This nomination has been prepared in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 60 and approved by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission. **The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copies of the nomination (and photos) for the above-mentioned property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.**

In addition, we are submitting 10-900a (Additional Documentation) for the following National Register-listed property:

Kanawha State Forest Historic District (NR Reference # 93000228)

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact Jeffrey S. Smith, National Register Coordinator, at 304.558.0220.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/JSS

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 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: West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf & Blind

Other names/site number: _____

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: Barron Drive

City or town: Institute State: West Virginia County: Kanawha

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 ___ X statewide ___ local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Returned

Susan M. Perce

12/18/2019

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County and State

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Returned

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County and State

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

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.)

Work in progress

Returned

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, SLATE

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 West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind is located on Barron Drive in Institute, Kanawha County, West Virginia. Institute is approximately seven (7) miles west of Charleston, the capitol of West Virginia. It is located between Interstate 64 and the Kanawha River. The West Virginia State University is located to the northeast and a large industrial plant is located to the northwest. The south-facing building is located on a large flat river valley lot and was once part of a large complex of modern-era buildings, many of which have been demolished. The structure is a two-story brick Neoclassical institutional building with a U-shaped plan and a hipped slate roof. The symmetrical front façade is dominated by a two-story Corinthian portico.

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County and State

Narrative Description

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind c.1925 1 Contributing Building

Exterior – Central Block:

Constructed in 1925, this three-story, eleven-bay brick building has a hipped slate roof. The building originally consisted of the central building block with two detached two-story wings located behind and oriented perpendicular to the central structure (Photo 1). The building is a formal Neoclassical design dominated by a two-story portico (Photo 2) which spans the central three bays. The ground floor forms the base of the building and is demarcated with a pronounced sandstone water table band above the ground floor windows. The main entrance and *piano nobile* are located on the first floor and are accessible via a large split staircase with cast iron railing leading to the portico. The portico consists of Corinthian columns: two sets of paired columns at each corner and two single columns spaced evenly across the front. The columns appear to be constructed of cast stone. There are single wood pilasters where the portico meets the wall. The wood cornice and pediment contain dentils and modillions and a semi-circular fan-shaped window within the tympanum.

The main entrance is a double door, currently covered with plywood, with a surround consisting of pilasters, entablature, broken pediment, and a 5-light transom. Windows on the ground story consist of simple rectangular openings currently covered with plywood. Windows on the first story are 12-over-1 vinyl sash each with a brick blind arch lintel with stacked header pattern and stone keystones, springers, and sills. Windows on the second story are 12-over-1 replacement vinyl sash beneath a brick soldier course at the top of the wall. The windows in the bay to the left of the portico have been infilled with brick on all three stories. Air conditioning vents have been installed beneath most of the windows on the ground and first stories.

Exterior Wings:

The central block has two-story hipped-roof wings extending from the east and west elevations (Photos 4, 5, & 8) that were originally open-air covered porches (Figure 1). The porches were enclosed after 1943 and now contain paired 6-over-1 wood sash windows in the south elevation bay and paired 8-over-1 wood sash windows in each of the three bays on the east and west elevations. The ground story windows are covered with plywood. The top story of the central structure on the east and west elevations above the porch wings is three bays and contains windows similar to the front façade.

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Figure 1: WV Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind, ca. 1940. Courtesy of WV Division of Rehabilitation Services

The two rear wings are each five bays wide and nine bays long and have hipped asphalt shingle roofs. These were originally freestanding structures connected to the central building via covered walkways (Figure 2). The east and west elevations of the wings contain tall window openings with brick flat arches and stone keystones and sills. The fourth and sixth bays from the front (central structure) have larger arched window openings that have been clad with stucco. The fifth bay on the west wing contains a deeply recessed service entrance covered in white and green-flecked glazed tile. The windows on the upper story consist of 6-over-1 aluminum sash with stone sills in each bay. There are air conditioning vents installed above the ground floor level sporadically. The rear elevation of each wing formerly contained 5 window openings with brick flat arch and stone keystone. Two windows on each rear façade have been infilled with brick and the rest are covered in plywood. Two single door openings have been added to each rear wing elevation.

The rear wings were connected to the central block of the building by two-story brick hyphens (Photo 4). Each hyphen is three bays long and contains three paired 6-over-6 aluminum sash windows. The hyphen on the east elevation has a deeply recessed ground floor with a steel column supporting the structure above and various boarded openings. The west hyphen contains two boarded window openings. A one-story flat-roof addition behind the central structure linking the two hyphens may have been constructed at the same time. Later, a one-story flat roof addition was constructed to fill the entire courtyard between the wings, and consists of a band of

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

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12 metal frame windows currently boarded with doors on either end and a deep overhang metal fascia roof (Photos 6 & 7).

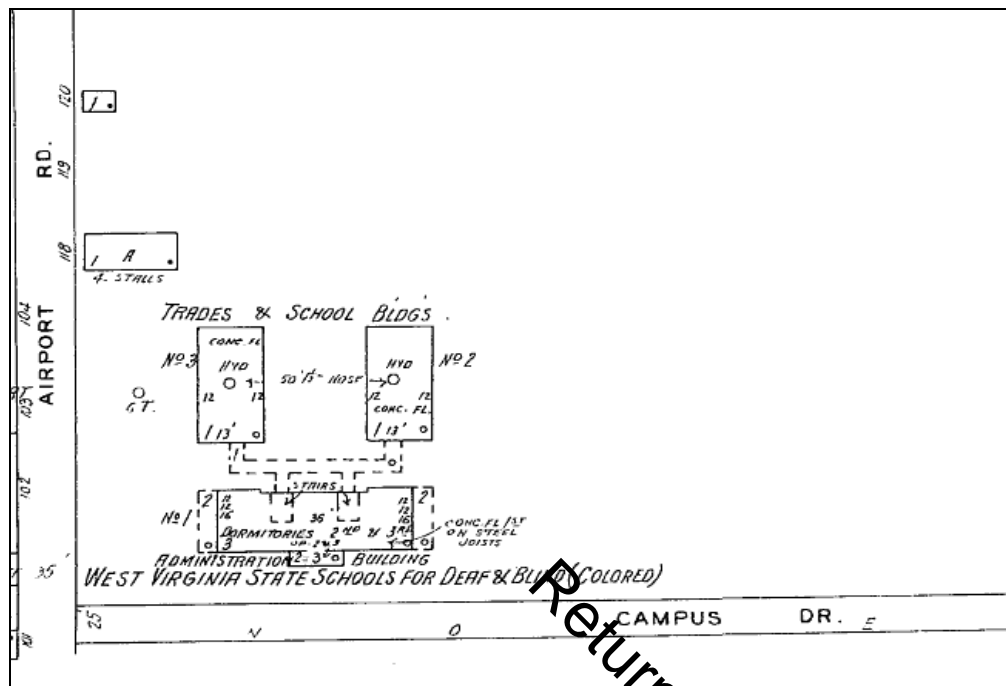


Figure 2: Campus building configuration, 1933. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Dunbar, WV, Sept. 1933

Additions and Alterations

Exact dates for the additions and alterations described could not be ascertained. Newspaper articles from 1955, when the property became a rehabilitation center, show open porches and detached rear wings. Although newspaper articles published between 1956 and the late 1960s frequently mentioned funding appropriations, planned improvements and bid results for construction at the Rehabilitation Center, minimal detail was included regarding the projects. Nevertheless, it is surmised that the bulk of the alterations and additions to the original West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind structures were completed between 1956-1965, with the exception of the vinyl sash windows on the front façade, which were installed after the property was acquired by West Virginia State University in 2013.

Integrity

The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind retains historic integrity as it relates to Criterion A. The location, setting, exterior materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association are largely intact, particularly in the central structure. The Neoclassical brick façade, slate roof, original portico and most other architectural details remain. Despite subsequent additions and alterations, the property still conveys its original design and significance as the first and only educational institution for deaf and blind African American children in West Virginia.

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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.

Returned

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

Period of Significance

1925-1954

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wysong & Jones

Returned

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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 West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under *Criterion A: Education* as well as *Ethnic History: Black* for its role in West Virginia's educational history as well as for its role in the state's black history. The Period of Significance is 1926 to 1955, beginning with the opening of the school and ending with the school's closure as a result of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, which desegregated public schools. After this decision, African American students were integrated into the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Romney, Hampshire County, West Virginia.

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

African Americans and Education

West Virginia had a small population of African Americans when it became a state on June 20, 1863. At the time, approximately 21,144 African Americans, 2,773 free blacks and 18,371 slaves lived in West Virginia.¹ The first state Constitution called for the gradual emancipation of slaves; however, slavery was officially abolished with the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The state saw considerable growth in the African American population during the late 1800s and early 1900s. After the Civil War, African Americans migrated into West Virginia and other northern states from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee in search of higher wages and better economic opportunities. In West Virginia, they found employment constructing the railroad lines for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, Norfolk & Western Railroad, and Virginian Railroad. Many decided to stay after the completion of the railroads to work in the southern West Virginia coalfields. As the need for more coal miners increased, coal companies sent agents to the south to recruit African Americans. By 1917, one in every three miners in the Pocahontas coalfield of southern West Virginia was black.² Between 1860 in the counties that would become the state of West Virginia and 1950, the population of African Americans increased statewide from 21,144 in 1860 to 114,867 in 1950.³

¹ "West Virginia Population by Race" *West Virginia Division of Culture & History*. Web. <http://www.wvculture.org/history/teacherresources/censuspopulationrace.html>. Accessed 12 February 2019.

² Nick Musgrave, "Black Coal: the African-American Miners of West Virginia Southern Coalfields." Web. 12 February 2019

³ "West Virginia Population by Race" *West Virginia Division of Culture & History*. Web. <http://www.wvculture.org/history/teacherresources/censuspopulationrace.html>. Accessed 12 February 2019.

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Early education of black children in the state occurred via a variety of avenues including private programs developed by both African American and white citizens, the U.S. Freedman's Bureau, missionaries and public schools. African Americans took the initiative and established their own schools in many communities. In 1862, African Americans living in Parkersburg founded the first African American school in what would become West Virginia. Other schools for African Americans opened in Wheeling, Clarksburg, Charleston, Martinsburg, Charles Town and Malden. These schools were often private and held classes in nearby homes and churches.⁴

The 1872 State Constitution addressed the education of free black children but included a provision that stated, "white and colored persons shall not be taught in the same school."⁵ As the population of African Americans increased so did the need for public education and teachers. Laws permitted the establishment of black schools only wherever there were 30 black students between the ages of 6 and 21.⁶ This number was later reduced to 10 black students. Once the population requirements were met, public elementary and high schools began springing up in many communities. As a result of the increase in schools, additional black teachers were needed to teach in the new schools. Schools in West Virginia hired African American teachers from Ohio and Pennsylvania until in-state colleges could prepare blacks for the teaching profession. The first college, Storer College in Harpers Ferry, was established in 1865 and trained African Americans who aspired to become teachers. In 1891, the West Virginia Colored Institute - now West Virginia State University - was founded as the first black land grant college in the state and began training African Americans for the teaching profession.⁷

Establishment of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

The West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Romney was established in 1870 but served only white children. Prior to 1926, West Virginia did not have a school for African American children who were deaf or blind. A small number of parents sent their children to attend the Overlea School for the Deaf and Blind in Baltimore, Maryland. Their expenses were covered by the state of West Virginia and drawn from funding given to the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney. Some families thought Maryland was too far to send their children and began advocating for a school in West Virginia.

In 1919, three African American delegates, T. G. Nutter of Charleston in Kanawha County, Harry J. Capehart of Keystone in McDowell County, and John V. Coleman of Fayette County sponsored legislation for a colored school for the deaf and blind. They included a provision that required the superintendent and entire staff be of the African American race. On February 8, 1919, the West Virginia legislature passed legislation establishing a state institution to be known as "the Colored Deaf and Blind Schools" for Africans Americans between the ages

⁴ Bickley, Ancella. "African-American Education." E-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 5 February 2016. Web. 9 February 2019.

⁵ "1872 Constitution of the State of West Virginia." Web.
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/government/1872constitution.html>. Accessed 12 February 2019.

⁶ Bickley, Ancella. "African-American Education."

⁷ Ibid.

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of 8 and 25.⁸ The legislation also asked the State Board of Control and a committee of three African-Americans who were appointed by the Governor to select a location for the school and provide building plans.⁹ They selected a 19 ¾ acre site in Institute (Kanawha County), West Virginia near the West Virginia Colored Institute (now West Virginia State University).

Charleston-based architects Wysong & Jones were hired to design the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind. Alphonso F. Wysong (1881-1944) was born in Newport, Giles County, Virginia and established an office in Princeton, West Virginia in the early 1900s. He designed residences, schools, businesses, the Wyoming County Courthouse (1916), Gilmer County Courthouse (1924) and Charleston Municipal Auditorium (1939). After World War I, Wysong and architect Thomas P. Jones established Wysong & Jones with offices in Princeton and Charleston. West Virginia Secretary of State Records indicate that the firm of Wysong, Tufts and Jones was established in 1920; it was reorganized several times with other partners in addition to Wysong and Jones and was dissolved in 1932.¹⁰ The firm designed the Physical Education buildings at Concord Normal School¹¹ (Athens) and the New River State School¹² (Montgomery) in 1923, a residence building at the Bluefield Colored Institute in 1924¹³ and a junior high school at Marmet in 1930¹⁴. According to census records, Jones was born about 1887 in Pennsylvania. In 1910, he was living in Falls Creek, Pennsylvania and was listed as an architect. In 1920, he was working as a draftsman in Mercer County and by 1940, was back in Falls Creek, living with family and noted as having been unemployed for 39 weeks with a usual occupation of architect. Jones was a charter member of the West Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1922, along with Wysong and other notable local architects including Walter Martens and H. Rus Warne and a number of others.¹⁵ Jones died in 1948 in Falls Creek at the age of 61¹⁶.

Construction of the main building which included administrative offices, dormitory, dining room, and classrooms began in 1925 and was completed the following year. Miller and Devine, a construction company based in Fairmont, WV was the contractor.¹⁷ The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind opened on September 14, 1926 with 28 students. Over the years, the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind campus expanded to five buildings. In 1928, the one-story West Building was constructed north of the main building and it provided space for classrooms, a braille library for the blind, as well as a playroom. A matching East Building which housed classrooms for deaf students soon followed in 1930.

⁸ Ambler, Charles H. *A History of Education in West Virginia: From Early Colonial Times to 1949*. Huntington, West Virginia, Standard Printing & Publishing Company, 1952.

⁹ Barnes, Uriah. "West Virginia Code, Chapter 45, Education." Web. 1923.
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.35112105119962;view=lup;seq=1039>. Accessed 25 February 2019.

¹⁰ West Virginia Secretary of State Business Organization Search.

¹¹ "Physical Education Buildings at Concord State Normal School," *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, May 9, 1923, p 11.

¹² *Charleston Daily Mail*, August 5, 1923, p 9.

¹³ "Residence Campus of Bluefield Colored Institute," *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, April 23, 1924, p 15.

¹⁴ *Charleston Gazette*, May 18, 1930, p 7.

¹⁵ "Architects Plan Anniversary Fete", *Charleston Gazette*, Nov 16, 1947, p 11.

¹⁶ "Thomas P. Jones Falls Creek Architect, Dies." *Dubois Courier Express*. March 4, 1948, p 1.

¹⁷ Ancella Bickley, "In Spite of Obstacles...", 13.

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Another building constructed in 1931 housed a four-bay auto garage and space for a mop and broom making shop.¹⁸ The 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 2) depicts the campus's early layout. By 1948, the school included a main structure, two one-story brick buildings that were used for classrooms and one one-story building used as a garage, storage, and student workshop. Historic photographs from a 1930 Report of the West Virginia State Board of Control indicate that the west one-story rear wing housed the school for the blind and the east wing house the school for the deaf.¹⁹ The final building added to this campus was an auditorium/gymnasium designed by Charleston-based African American architect John C. Norman in 1950.²⁰

School Curriculum and Operation

The purpose of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind was to train the students to be self-sustaining and to function in society with as little handicap as possible. Its educational curriculum consisted of learning sign language and other communication methods, subject instruction, and vocational training. Young deaf students were taught to communicate by an oral method and a manual method. The oral method consisted of making sounds, speaking, and reading lips while the manual method involved using sign language to communicate.²¹ Teachers taught blind students the braille system of reading and how to use devices such as the talking-book machine, braille writers, and radios. In addition to learning how to communicate, students were taught subjects including reading, math, history, geography, language, government, physiology, and physics. Between 1927 and 1934, vocational programs were introduced to teach students skills such as barbering, beauty culture, shoe repairing, tailoring, cleaning and pressing, chair caning, mop and broom making, rug weaving, leather craft, and home economics.

Between 1926 and 1951, 102 deaf and 68 blind students were admitted to the West Virginia School for the Colored Deaf and Blind. Approximately 35 deaf and blind students received a vocational certificate.²² A total of 11 deaf and 15 blind students completed high school, 2 deaf students received a college degree, and 3 blind students received master's degrees.²³

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court heard the case *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. The justices ruled that separating students based on race was unconstitutional. As a result, West Virginia began the process of integrating schools and the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind was one of the institutions that closed. African American deaf and blind students were transferred to the West Virginia School for the

¹⁸ Bickley 20.

¹⁹ "School for the Blind..." and "School for the Deaf...", WV History on View.

²⁰ Bickley 51.

²¹ "Special Report, Silver Anniversary, The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind, 1926-1951."

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

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Deaf and Blind in Romney, Hampshire County, West Virginia. In 1955, the West Virginia Legislature repealed legislation for the Schools for the Colored Blind and Deaf.²⁴

Post-Segregation

The State of West Virginia saw many schools for African Americans close in the years following the 1954 Supreme Court decision. With it came a loss of black professionals, educational memorabilia, and historical perspectives. Black teachers, coaches, and principals had a difficult time finding positions in the integrated schools.

In 1955, the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind property became a rehabilitation center for the blind and severely disabled. The West Virginia Board of Education opened the Rehabilitation Center on August 1, 1955 to prepare individuals for employment.²⁵ Clients received training in auto mechanic repair, business administration, computer science, radio and TV repair, upholstery, sewing, and small appliance repair as well as rehabilitation services.

As the demand for services increased, ten new buildings including dormitories and sheltered workshops were constructed between 1955 and 1975. In 1956, a sum of \$40,000 was appropriated for “repair and remodeling necessary to adapt buildings for use as a rehabilitation center at Institute.”²⁶ In March 1956, a legal advertisement for bids for “Alterations and Addition, Rehabilitation Center, Institute” was published in newspapers and stated that contract bids were available at the offices of architect Henry Elden and Associates.²⁷ Bowers and Chilton, Inc. of South Charleston received the construction contract for the project.²⁸ A large addition designed by Elden was approved by the state in 1957,²⁹ but was ultimately rejected when construction bids exceeded the project budget.³⁰ Nevertheless, construction of new additions and buildings continued through the late 1950s and 1960s.^{31, 32}

The West Virginia Rehabilitation Center continued to operate until 2007 when it ceased to offer vocational and rehabilitation services; however, the Division of Rehabilitation Services continued to use the site for administrative offices until 2011. In June 2013, West Virginia State University acquired the entire West Virginia Rehabilitation property which contained 15

²⁴ “Article 18. West Virginia School for the Colored Deaf and Blind.” *West Virginia Code*. Web. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/WVCODE/Code.cfm/Bill_Status/ChapterEntire.cfm?chap=18&art=18§ion=1. Accessed 25 February 2019.

²⁵ “Valley Deaf and Blind Center to Be Shop For Disabled.” *Charleston Daily Mail*. 8 April 1955. P. 14.

²⁶ “State Again Ranks 3rd in Rehabilitation Job,” *Charleston Gazette*, Jan 1, 1956, p 22.

²⁷ “Advertisement for Bids,” *Charleston Gazette*, Mar 28, 1956 p 22.

²⁸ Herb Little, “Board Awards Contract for Concord Work,” *Charleston Daily Mail*, April 10, 1956, p 17.

²⁹ “Board Will Study Expansion of Rehabilitation Center,” *Charleston Gazette*, June 9, 1957, p 17.

³⁰ “2 Contracts Awarded for College Projects,” *Charleston Gazette*, July 11, 1957, p 13.,

³¹ “Rehabilitation Center at Ripley Discussed for WVU Medical Center,” *Morgantown Dominion-News*, July 29, 1959, p 3.

³² “\$525,000 Given to State Center,” *Charleston Gazette*, August 21, 1963, p 13.

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buildings and nearly 20 acres.³³ A majority of these structures have since been demolished due to poor condition and lack of function within West Virginia State University's campus.

Summary

The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind property is significant at the state level and recommended eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A* for its role in African American and educational history. The c. 1926 West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind educated deaf and blind African American children of West Virginia during segregation. In addition to the West Virginia standard school curriculum, the students were taught how to communicate using lip reading, sign language, and braille and provided with vocational training in order that each student would become a productive member of society after graduation. The design of the program was equivalent to that of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, the only comparable resource in the state. The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind property is also significant for its role in African American history. As the number of African Americans in the state increased, schools and colleges for African American students were established throughout West Virginia. The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind was the only institution in West Virginia that educated African Americans who were deaf or blind. Prior to the establishment of this school, no specialized curriculum for the African American deaf and blind was available in the state, so students were forced to seek an education in neighboring states.

Returned

³³ "West Virginia State Acquires Former Rehabilitation Center Property." *West Virginia State University*. Web. <http://www.wvstateu.edu/announcement/2013/06/17/West-Virginia-State-Acquires-Former-Rehabilitation.aspx>. Accessed 12 June 2019.

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See Continuation Sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- 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): KA-7356

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
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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: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17N | Easting: 432612 | Northing: 4248135 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See Continuation Sheets

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sarah Elswick, Architectural Historian, Courtney Zimmerman, Architectural Historian

organization: Aurora Research Associates, LLC

street & number: 1436 Graham Road

city or town: Silver Lake state: Ohio zip code: 44224

e-mail seelswick@gmail.com

telephone: 304-685-7410

date: May 22, 2019

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.)

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

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind

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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: West Virginia School for the Colored Deaf and Blind

City or Vicinity: Institute

County: Kanawha

State: West Virginia

Photographer: Courtney Zimmerman and Sarah Elswick

Date Photographed: October 25, 2018

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

See Continuation Sheets

Returned

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV School for the Colored Deaf and
Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 3

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The recommended National Register boundary of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind includes the historic school building. It is identified on the accompanying "Site Map and Photo Key" and includes a part of the tax parcel: district 25, map 34, parcel 39. The boundary is delineated by a heavy red line.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary includes the main building and attached two wings at the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind. This boundary does not include the entire tax parcel due to lack of historic integrity. The selected boundary encompasses but does not exceed the extent of the historic resources and historically associated land area. The boundary includes those historic elements of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind but does not include buffer zones and/or acreage and/or peripheral areas that do not directly contribute to the significance of the property or lack integrity.

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 1

PHOTO LOG

Name of Property: West Virginia School for the Colored Deaf and Blind
City or Vicinity: Institute
County: Kanawha
State: West Virginia
Photographers: Courtney Zimmerman and Sarah Elswick
Date of photographs: October 25, 2018
Location of Original Digital Files: 1436 Graham Rd
Silver Lake, OH 44224

Photo #1 of 10: South façade, camera facing north

Photo #2 of 10: South Façade, portico, camera facing north

Photo #3 of 10: Oblique view of the central structure, camera pointing northwest

Photo #4 of 10: Side view of the east façade and wing, camera pointing northwest

Photo #5 of 10: Oblique view of east wing, camera facing southwest

Photo #6 of 10: Rear (north) facade, camera facing south

Photo #7 of 10: View of rear courtyard infill addition (ca. 1960), camera facing south

Photo #8 of 10: Oblique view of west wing, camera facing south

Photo #9 of 10: View of the portico architectural details, camera facing north

Photo #10 of 10: Overview photo of school and immediate surroundings, camera facing northwest

Returned

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind
----- Name of Property Kanawha County, West Virginia
----- County and State N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 2



Photo 2: South façade, camera facing north



Photo 3: South Façade, portico, camera facing north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property Kanawha County, West Virginia
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 3



Photo 4: Oblique view of the central structure, camera pointing northwest



Photo 5: Side view of the east façade and wing, camera pointing northwest

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 4



Photo 6: Oblique view of east wing, camera facing southwest



Photo 7: Rear (north) facade, camera facing south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 5



Photo 8: View of rear courtyard infill addition (ca. 1960), camera facing south



Photo 9: Oblique view of west wing, camera facing south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV School for the Colored Deaf and
Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 6



Photo 10: View of the portico architectural details, camera facing north



Photo 11: Overview photo, camera facing northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 7

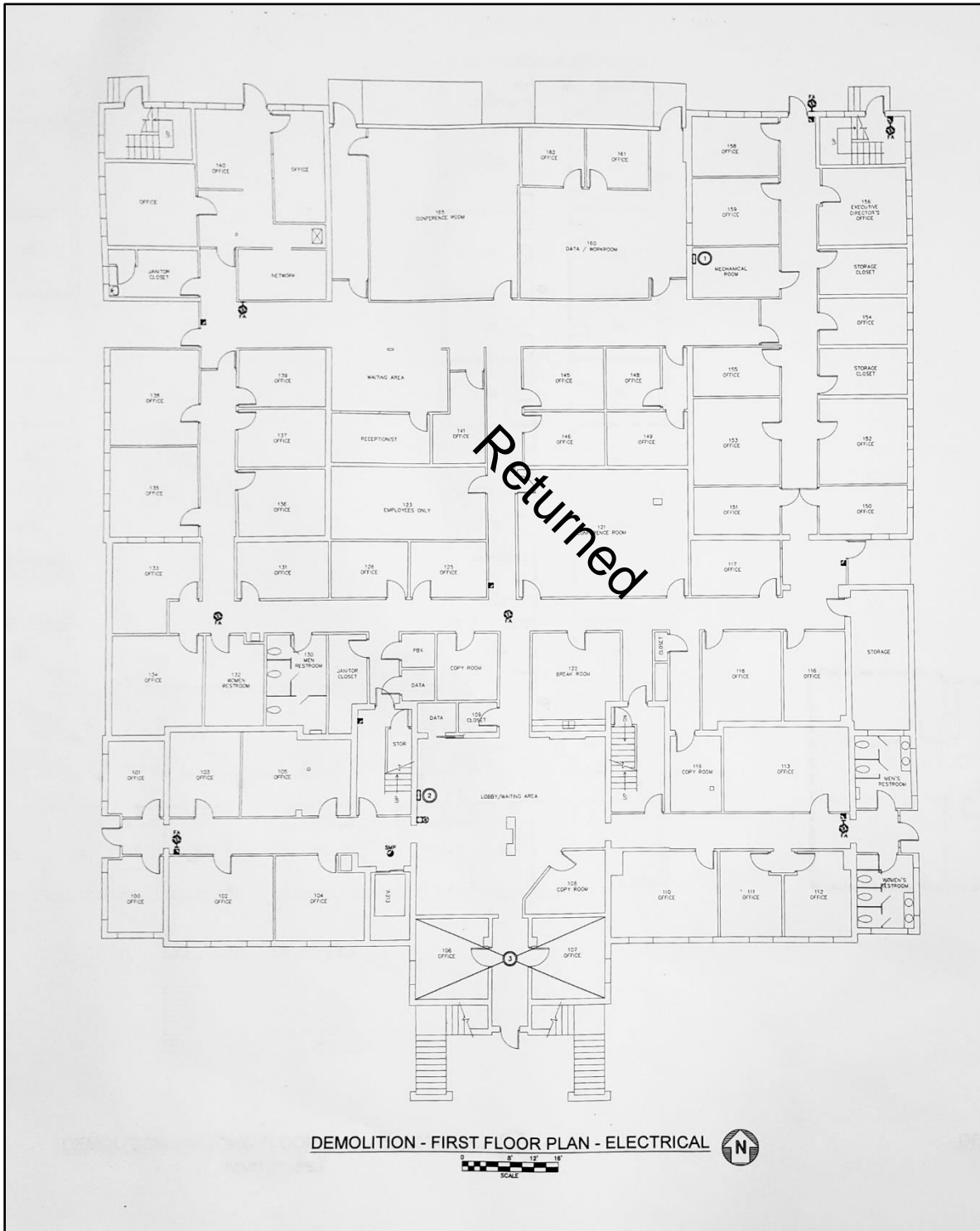


Figure 3: Floor Plan, first floor, 2011, courtesy Silling Associates.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind
Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 8

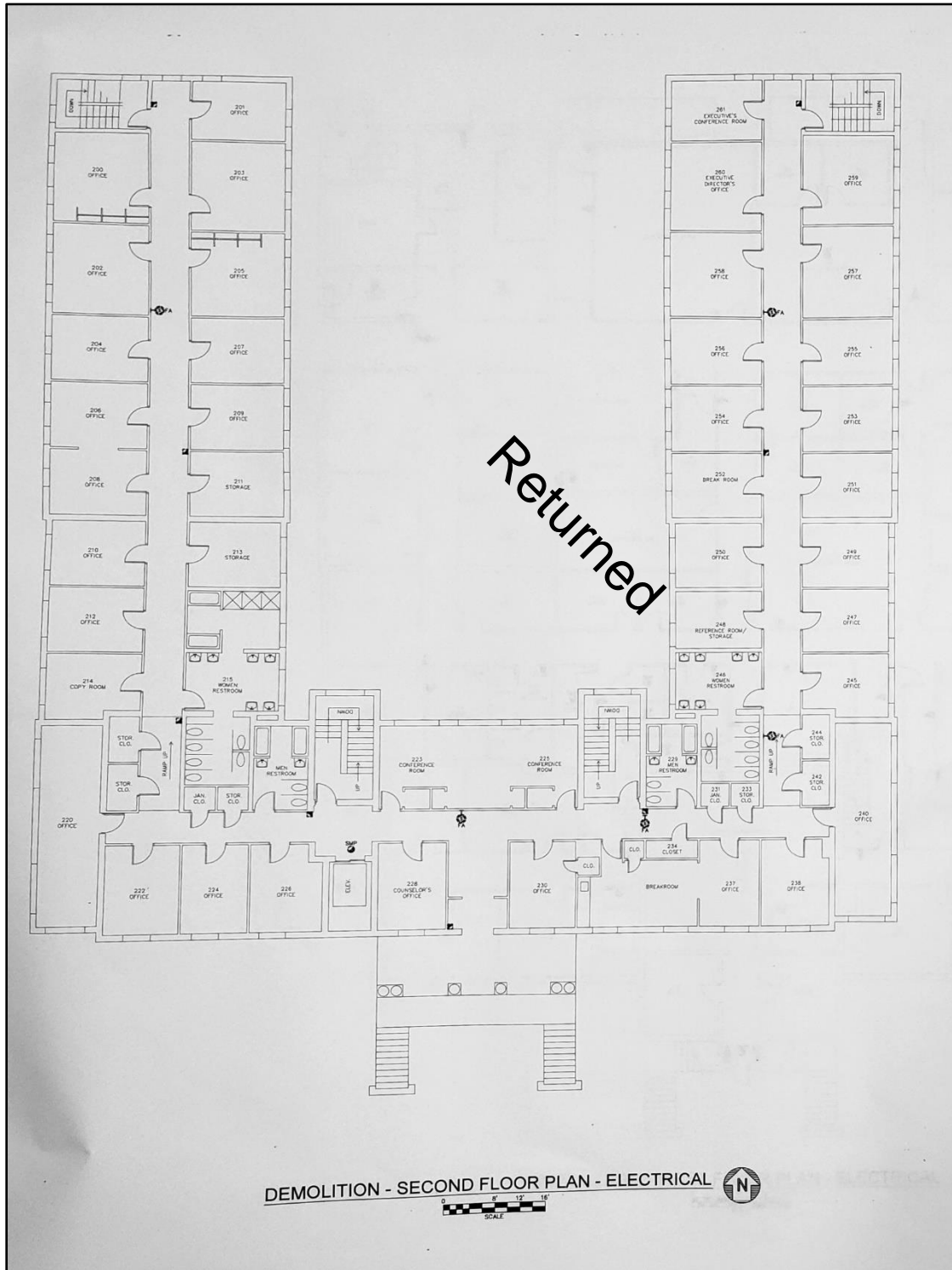


Figure 4: Floor plan, second floor, 2011, courtesy Silling Associates.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind

Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 9

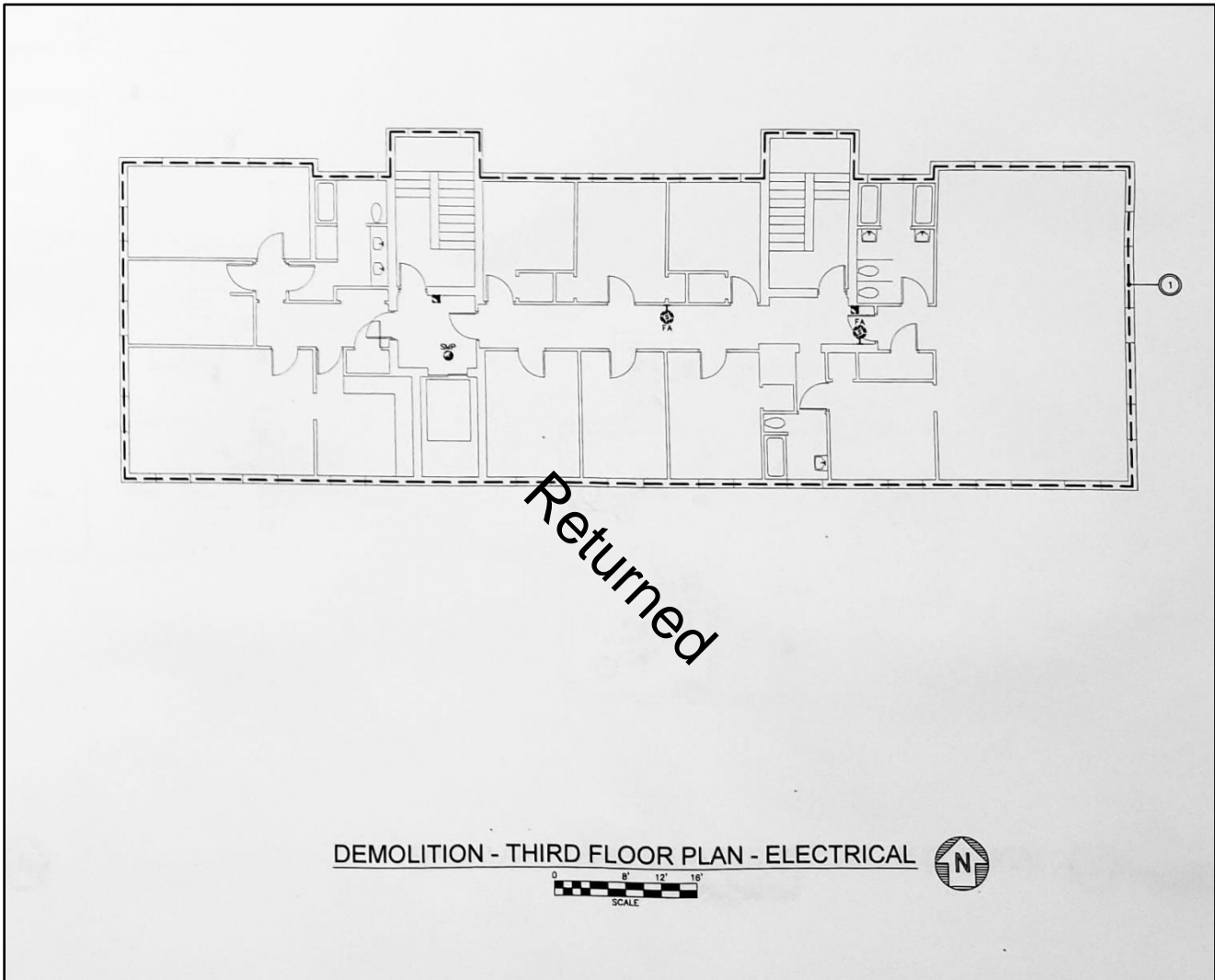
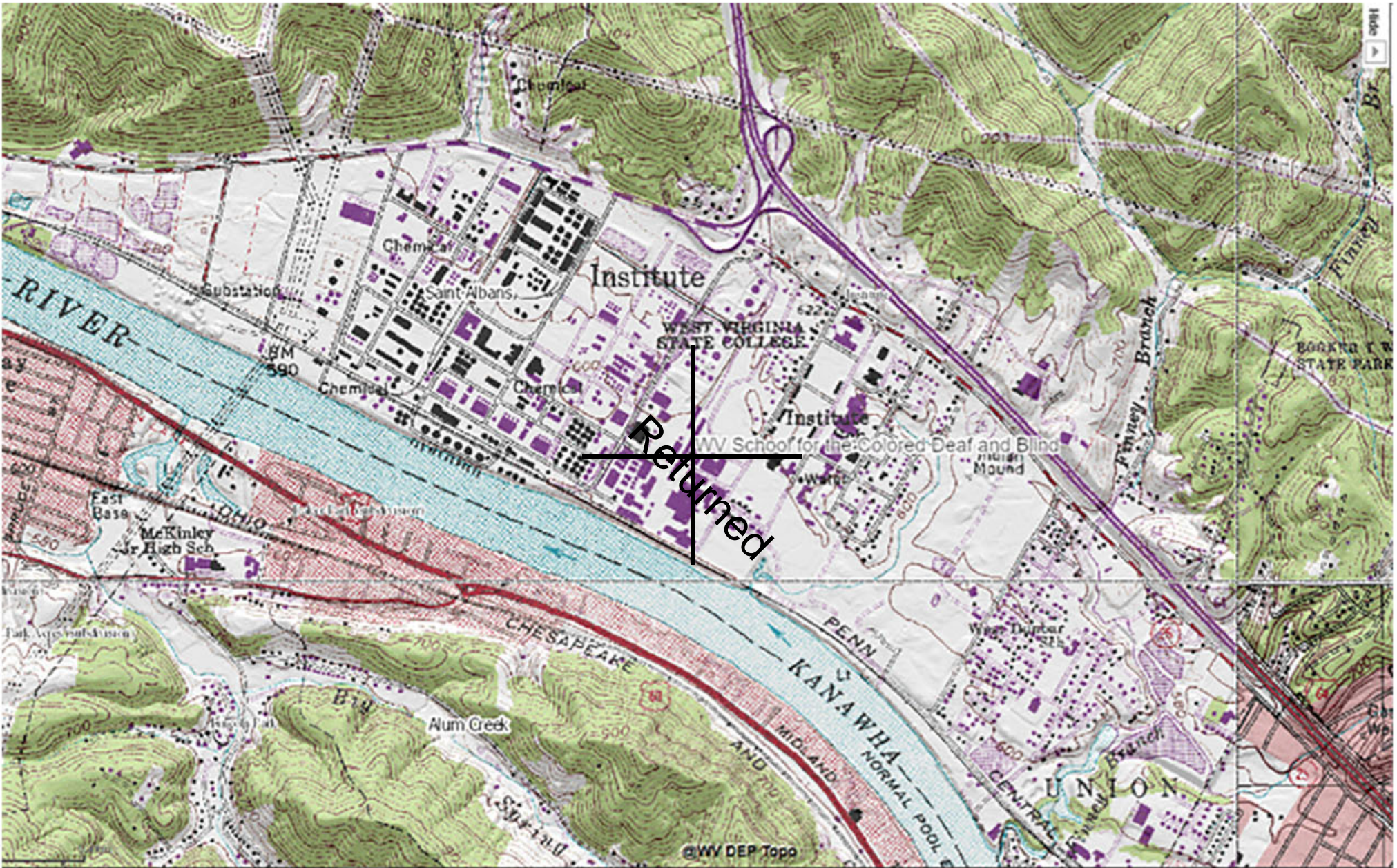


Figure 5: Floor plan, third floor, 2011, courtesy Silling Associates.



West Virginia School for the Colored Deaf and Blind National Register Nomination Institute, Kanawha County, WV

Site Map and Photo Key
July 2019



WV School for the Colored Deaf and Blind National Register Nomination
Institute, Kanawha County, WV
UTM Coordinates: Easting 432612, Northing 4248135

USGS Topo Map
St. Albans Quad
Zone 17N 1983

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/23/2019 Date of Pending List: 1/14/2020 Date of 16th Day: 1/29/2020 Date of 45th Day: 2/6/2020 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 2/6/2020 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

The nomination for the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind is being returned for additional information and clarification. Please consider resubmitting the nomination with the following items addressed:

1. Please submit a sketch map or site plan, prepared as described on page 62 of National Register Bulletin 16, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form. The sketch plan should label building components (main building, wings, auditorium) and include names of surrounding buildings and streets. It should also label open areas that may be parking lots, play grounds, or former building sites (this is not clear on the aerial photo submitted). The Sanborn Map site plan on page 7 evidently excludes the entire building that exists today and does not seem to accurately portray the building's location in relation to streets.

2. The boundary for the nominated property should be reconsidered. As submitted, the boundary draws a tight line around the building, without revealing how far out from the building the boundary is. It omits any setting. The nomination suggests that the boundary was selected "due to lack of historic integrity" for the entire parcel the building occupies; however, the aerial photo shows open space to the north and south. It is not clear what is to the west, but if it is a street, the nominated property should include the land to street or sidewalk. Please reconsider this boundary and provide a better boundary justification. The exclusion of all land is generally unacceptable, particularly if the surrounding land and building share an owner. In this case, it has been explained that the buildings constructed for the rehab center are not associated with the significance claimed for the deaf and blind institute, but the small amount of land to the north and south would not be considered a "buffer zone".

3. Is there a connection with the building to the east? The aerial photo suggest this, but if a connection exists it is not explained in the section "Additions and Alterations".

4. The interior needs to be described and its integrity evaluated.

5. The period of significance and significant dates are inconsistent with the text. The period of significance is given as 1925 – 1954; however, on page 10 the period of significance is stated to be 1926 – 1955. Please note that the period of significance generally begins when the building is completed, not when it is under construction. Please reconcile these dates. Are 1928 (West Building), 1930 (East Building), and 1950 (auditorium/gym) significant dates?

The West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind seems to be very important in the history of the state's educational system and its facilities for disabled people. I look forward to reviewing a corrected version, and I'm very willing to discuss any point that isn't clear.

Please feel free to contact me at 202-354-2252 or barbara_wyatt@nps.gov.

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt



Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252

Date

2-6-20

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Randall Reid-Smith, Curator

Phone 304.558.0220 • www.wvculture.org
Fax 304.558.2779 • TDD 304.558.3562
EEO/AA Employer

February 19, 2021

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 202040

Dear Ms. Beasley:

For your review, we are resubmitting a National Register of Historic Places registration form for the following property:

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind, Institute, Kanawha County, West Virginia

This nomination has been processed in accordance with 36 CFR § 60 and approved by the West Virginia Archives and Historic Commission on September 27, 2019. A brief summary of related correspondence and information is as follows:

Initially submitted on December 19, 2019, the National Park Service returned the WVSCDB nomination on February 6, 2020 for "additional information and clarification." All issues have been addressed and the revised nomination includes reevaluated boundaries and justification, interior descriptions and evaluations, updated maps and additional information regarding setting and greater environment.

Additionally, our normal process is to embed photographs at the end of the NR form. We will not be including a separate image file.

Should you have any questions please contact Emily Vance, National Register Coordinator, at Emily.S.Vance@wv.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan M. Pierce".

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.