

(Public Schools of Memphis 1902-1915 Thematic Resources

IDENTIFICATION	<p>Historic name: <u>Central High School</u></p> <p>Common name: <u>Same</u></p> <p>Address: <u>306 S. Bellevue Blvd.</u></p> <p><u>Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee</u></p> <p>Owner's name: <u>Board of Education</u></p> <p>Owner's address: <u>2597 Avery</u></p> <p><u>Memphis, Tennessee 38112</u></p> <p>Classification: <u>Thematic</u></p> <p>Tax map reference: <u>See attached site map</u></p> <p>Acreage: <u>5.97 acres</u></p> <p>UTM reference: <u>Northwest Memphis Quad</u> <u>15/771560/3891740</u></p>	STATUS	<p>Open to public: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Visible from road: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Occupied: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Present use: <u>public school</u></p> <p>Current condition: <u>good</u></p> <p>Alterations: <u>1948 gymnasium and 1967</u> <u>classroom additions, see site map</u></p> <p>Site features: <u>relatively flat site,</u> <u>casually landscaped with mature trees,</u> <u>foundation plantings, and hedge rows</u> <u>bordering front sidewalks</u></p>
HISTORY	<p>Date of construction: <u>1911</u></p> <p>Architect/builder: <u>B. C. Alsup</u></p> <p>Original or previous owners: <u>N/A</u></p> <p>Original use: <u>N/A</u></p> <p>Theme/s: Primary <u>architecture</u></p> <p>Secondary <u>education</u></p> <p>Other <u>N/A</u></p>	SOURCES	<p>Bibliographical data: <u>See NR nomination</u></p> <p>Form prepared by: <u>Lloyd Ostby</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Preservation Planner</u></p> <p>Organization: <u>Memphis Landmarks</u> <u>Commission</u> Date: <u>May, 1982</u></p>
DESCRIPTION	<p>The four-story brick building (1911) with cast stone details is Jacobean Revival in style with corner pavilions on the front (west) facade; projecting central bay; narrow string courses above the first, second and fourth stories; rusticated surrounds on the second, third and fourth story windows, and a flat roof with a high parapet. The projecting central bay has canted corners, a stepped gable with a central cartouche, and a first-story doorway surround of a pediment with engaged Doric columns over an arched opening. The building is rectangular in plan with two interior courtyards. The interior is relatively simple with glazed brick dados, terrazo floors, and cast iron stair railings. Despite a large 1949 gymnasium and a 1967 classroom addition to the rear (east) side of the building, the school retains its exterior and interior architectural integrity.</p>		
SIGNIFICANCE	<p>The school is an excellent local example of the Jacobean Revival and is one of the very few local examples of that style along with the A. B. Hill (1909), Rozelle (1914), and Humes (1925) schools. The building is one of four public schools designed by B. C. Alsup between 1908 and 1911. Alsup was a very prominent Memphis architect during the early twentieth century and was responsible for the Goodwyn Institute (1906), St. John's Methodist Church (1908, NR 12-22-78), and the West Tennessee Normal Institute (1912).</p> <p>Along with the other eleven nominated public schools in Memphis built between 1902 and 1915 the building reflects the tremendous population growth in Memphis during this period and the great pride and importance the city and nation placed on public education at that time.</p> <p>(Continued on Attached Sheet)</p>		

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Public Schools of Memphis

Continuation sheet 1902-1916 Thematic Resources Item number 8

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Central High School - Significance

For many years Central was the only public secondary school in Memphis except for the city's technical school. Academically Central has always been among the best public and private schools in Memphis and has educated a large number of the city's leading citizens over the past seventy-one years.