

NPS Form 10-900  
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



420

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oak Grove Elementary School  
other names/site number Oak Grove Grammar School

2. Location

street & number 1912 South Willow Street NA  not for publication  
city or town Chattanooga NA  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Hamilton code 065 zip code 37404

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

E. Patrick McHenry, Jr. May 20, 2011  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Elson H. Beall 7-6-11  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Name of Property

Hamilton County, TN  
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 count)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	2	structures
		objects
2	2	Total

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

N/A

**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)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

## DESCRIPTION

The Oak Grove Elementary School is located at 1912 South Willow Street in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Chattanooga, the county seat of Hamilton County is the fourth largest city in Tennessee and is located on a bend of the Tennessee River and to the north of the Georgia state line. The Oak Grove Elementary School building was constructed to the southeast of downtown Chattanooga in what was originally the suburb of Oak Grove that later came into the city limits. To the east of the Oak Grove neighborhood is Ridgedale and to the west is Interstate 24. Facing Willow Street to the northwest, the Oak Grove Elementary School is a two-story, brick Colonial Revival style building. The original school at this location was built in 1913 and an auditorium wing was added in 1936. In 1941, a fire destroyed the school building with the exception of the auditorium. Construction began in 1942 to replace the original building and a large two-story rectangular plan section was added to the west of the auditorium. This new section was designed in the Colonial Revival style to compliment the auditorium and the school was reopened for use in 1944. The school is the only building on the nominated 1.8-acre parcel. The entire property is currently encompassed by a cyclone fence for security purposes. The main entrance of the building faces northwest, with an original metal flagpole in front of the school. Also in front of the building is a non-contributing, ca. 1997 metal sign. To the northeast is a ca. 1997 playground included as a non-contributing structure. The surrounding neighborhood is primarily pre-1960 dwellings on small parcels. The school closed in 1989 and the city of Chattanooga sold the property to a private owner in 1997.

The Oak Grove Elementary School is a two-story building in the Colonial Revival style with a brick exterior of five-course American bond and concrete detailing including lintels and keystones above windows, quoins, pilasters, and belt courses. The façade (northwest) of the 1942 section of the school building (photos 1-3) consists of six bays including the main entrance. Across the façade there is a concrete belt course between the basement level and first floor window sills, which are also of concrete. Four bays of the façade are identical with a central pair of ca. 1970, horizontal, two-over-two, metal sash windows with covered transoms, under a concrete jack arch with keystone; the pairs are flanked by single windows of the same design, in a modified Palladian design. This fenestration configuration is repeated on the second story, though without the lintels, as a concrete belt course runs across the façade above the second-story windows. A second, slightly wider, concrete belt course is above the first, and the roofline has concrete coping. The roof of the 1942 section is flat. A fifth bay of the 1942 façade has one paired window set with a concrete jack arch with keystone next to a single window with a concrete jack arch with keystone. The configuration is repeated on the second floor, again without the lintels. All windows on the school building, unless otherwise noted, are ca. 1970, horizontal, two-over-two, metal sash, with a covered transom. The sixth bay of the 1942 section façade is the main entrance to the school building. This bay projects slightly. On the first floor are four ca. 1970 doors of heavy wood, each with a small vertical glass pane. The doors are set within a concrete surround. Above the doors is a canvas awning. Inscribed above the entrance is the date 1942. Above this is a pair of windows within a concrete surround. The second floor of the entrance bay has concrete quoins at the corners and a wide, concrete belt course below the roofline.

The 1942 section of the school building is attached perpendicularly to the 1936 auditorium on the latter's southwest elevation. A two-story hallway runs along the auditorium's length and has a secondary entrance on the northwest and southeast elevations, projecting from the 1942 section approximately six feet. The northwest entrance has original, six-light, single-panel wood double doors within a concrete surround with a cornice above. The second floor has a single window with concrete surround with a keystone.

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The auditorium is a two-story, gable front rectangular plan building which projects towards Willow Street. The façade (northwest) of the auditorium (Photos 1 and 3) has five bays, divided by concrete pilasters with stylized capitals. Between the pilasters, the first floor originally had entrances, which have been filled with windows (as described before) and stretcher bond brick. Each of the three in-filled areas has a concrete surround. On the second floor, the pilasters divide three windows with concrete jack arches with keystones. Above this three-bay section is the inscription "Oak Grove Elementary School," engraved in a concrete cornice that spans the pediment. Above the three-bay section is a concrete gable pediment inset within the gable field. The gable of the main roofline above has concrete coping. At the corners of the auditorium's façade are concrete quoins.

The northeast elevation of the school is the 1936 auditorium. On the northeast elevation of the auditorium are five original, two-story, arched, multi-light, steel windows that are lined with soldier course masonry and have concrete keystones (photos 6 and 9). Below the windows is a brick belt course in a soldier course pattern across the entire elevation. The north bay window was covered in brick when a section of the auditorium was closed off for classrooms. There is an entrance into the auditorium within the central arch. This entrance has ca. 1970 metal double doors. The remaining steel arched windows are covered with particleboard. Connecting with the auditorium entrance is a ca. 1970 concrete ramp with metal pipe railing. The ramp wraps around to the rear (southeast) elevation. To the northeast of the school building is a small playground lot with ca. 1997 playground equipment.

On the rear (southeast) elevation of the auditorium there are HVAC components. On the 1942 rear section of the building is a small vestibule entrance where the auditorium and the main body of the school intersect. The entrance has original, two-light, three-panel wood double doors. Above is a soldier course lintel. On the 1942 section there is also a soldier course half-way up the height of the first floor; this continues along the entire rear elevation, which is recessed approximately six feet from the vestibule elevation. On this elevation, immediately above the soldier course are window groupings as on the façade. The windows have concrete sills; however, each window has a soldier course rather than a lintel. There is another entrance, approximately in the center of the rear elevation. It is accessed by a small flight of stairs with concrete steps and metal pipe railing. The entrance has an original, five-panel, wood door with a covered transom and a soldier course above. (Photo 7)

At the west end of the rear (southeast) elevation is a projecting wing that originally contained the kitchen and cafeteria. At the intersection of the projecting kitchen wing and the main school building is a small landing with concrete steps, metal pipe railing, and an original, two-light, three-panel wood door. In front of these stairs is a basement stairwell and above is a second floor entrance with a ca. 1970 metal door, accessed by an original, metal staircase along the projecting wall. The soldier course of the rear elevation continues along this wall. Around the corner, on the south elevation of this projecting kitchen section, there is a second entrance with an original two-light, three-panel wood door, a concrete landing and steps with a metal pipe railing. The soldier course continues along this elevation as well. Above the soldier course are three windows with concrete sills and soldier course lintels. On the second floor of this elevation, above the first-floor entrance, is a similar window. (Photo 8)

On the southwest elevation of the kitchen wing, the soldier course becomes a concrete belt course, as on the façade. There is a central entrance with concrete stairs, solid brick railings, original wood doors (covered with plywood), a covered transom, and a concrete surround. The entrance is flanked by windows with concrete, jack arch lintels with keystones. On the second floor of this elevation are similar windows, though without lintels, as a concrete belt course runs across the façade above the second-story windows. (Photo 10) A second, slightly wider, concrete belt course is above the first, and the roofline has concrete coping. The northwest elevation of this projecting section has two windows, and the concrete belt courses and roofline coping continue here as well. The roof of this entire kitchen

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Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

section is flat. The southwest elevation of the school building has four windows with concrete, jack arch lintels with keystones. Concrete belt courses continue as described on the previous section and façade.

The interior of the Oak Grove Elementary School is composed of central corridors on each floor with flanking classrooms and offices. (Photos 14 and 15) The northeast wing is composed of the auditorium while the southwest wing contains the kitchen and cafeteria. The main entrance of the school has a small foyer with four original interior doors comprised of one wood panel and nine lights. Above each door is an original three-light transom. This entrance accesses the stairwell to the first floor. Stairs are of concrete and steel construction. The stairwell continues at ninety-degree turns to the second floor and has a solid poured concrete railing. (Photo 13)

Throughout the school building, floors are finished in linoleum. The building retains original, stretcher bond brick wainscoting with a header bond top course at a height of about four feet. This wainscoting wraps around projecting, concrete support columns along the walls. Above the wainscoting, walls have original plaster surfaces. Fluorescent light fixtures are suspended from the dropped ceiling. (Photos 14 and 15) On the first floor, doors to classrooms and offices are ca. 1970 replacements of wood with a single clear wire glass pane. Above these doors are transoms that have been covered. At the northeast end of the hallway, a ramp rises to the auditorium, which has an added ca. 1970, raised floor. On the second floor, classrooms retain original, two-panel and single-light wood doors. Above the doors are original, six-light transoms. (Photo 11)

Classrooms on both floors retain many original features. Classroom size varies, though most are approximately thirty-four feet in length by twenty-three feet wide. Outer walls have replacement windows as described on the exterior. Below the windows are original steam radiators. Inner walls have original, wood cubbyholes and storage cabinets. At the front of each classroom is an original chalkboard. The height of the chalkboards from the floor varies from room to room, to accommodate use by different ages of students. At the rear of each classroom are original, wood cloakroom dividers. Ceilings and walls are plastered. Fluorescent lights are suspended from the ceilings, and the classrooms retain original light switches. (Photos 16 and 17)

Between the entrance stairwell and auditorium there is an original drinking fountain fixture. Each floor has a restroom each for boys and girls. These retain original tile floors, fixtures, sinks, and wood stalls with panel doors. Brick wainscoting is used on the walls, as in the hallways.

At the northeast end of the classroom portion of the school is the 1936 auditorium. A ramp rises from the main hallway to a hall in front of the auditorium entrance. At each end of this secondary hall is an exit. The entrance to the auditorium has ca. 1970 replacement metal doors. The auditorium is constructed of concrete block, with a painted finish. The floor has been raised approximately four feet above the original and is finished in linoleum tile, ca. 1970; however, a portion of this raised floor, along the northeast wall has collapsed. The ceiling has added, dropped acoustical tiles and inset fluorescent lighting and duct work. Along the outer wall are four original, multi-light, steel arched windows. Three of the five windows are covered with particleboard so that only the top arch portion remains visible. The central arch contains an exit with ca. 1970, metal replacement doors. At the southern end of the auditorium is the stage, which is approximately one foot higher than the added raised floor. The stage has a proscenium arch with a solid wood surround. This is flanked by original wood doors that lead behind the stage wall. One of the arched windows is located completely behind the proscenium arch wall, allowing natural light onto the stage area. The stage has a depth of approximately twenty feet. (Photo 12) The rear (north) section of the auditorium has been enclosed for offices and other uses. (In this enclosed section, the arched window has been covered with brick on the exterior so that only the top arch portion is visible.)

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At the southwest wing is the kitchen and cafeteria located on the first floor with classrooms on the second floor. The walls of the kitchen are of concrete block construction. Some wall portions have stretcher bond brick wainscoting and plaster veneer. The kitchen retains its original tile floor. A five-foot concrete block wall divides the kitchen and cafeteria space. The kitchen has an entrance with a two-light, three-panel wood door. The cafeteria has three windows on the southeast wall and an entrance on the southwest wall.

In front of the school is an original metal flagpole that is included as a contributing structure to the property. The property also contains a sign and playground added in the 1970s that are non-contributing structures to the school.

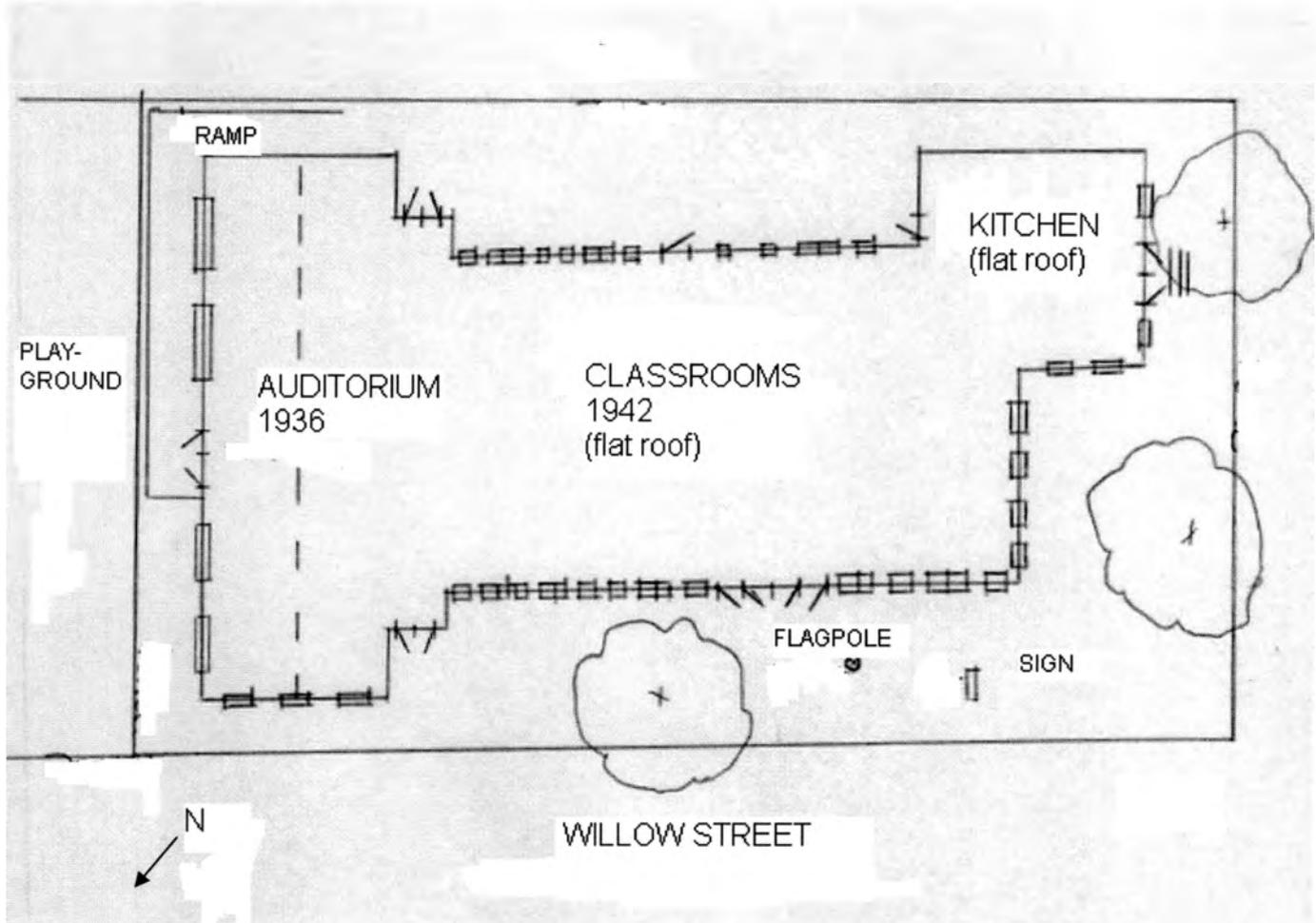
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Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

Current sketch plan Not to scale



Oak Grove Elementary School  
Name of Property

Hamilton County, TN  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations N/A**

(Mark "x" in all 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Chattanooga Public Library; Tennessee State Library & Archives

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1936-circa 1961

**Significant Dates**

1936, 1942

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Architect/Smith, Gordon L.

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Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY

The Oak Grove Elementary School is significant under National Register criteria A and C in the areas of education and architecture. The school is significant for its role in the Chattanooga public school system from 1936 to circa 1961 and for its Colonial Revival architectural design. The current school building comprises a 1936 auditorium connected to a 1942 main building and contains a total of 25,100 square feet. With a student body of 600 in its peak years, Oak Grove Elementary School was one of the largest public elementary schools in the city of Chattanooga, providing education for grades one through six until 1989, when the school was closed. Designed by Chattanooga architect Gordon Smith, the Colonial Revival style is seen in the red brick with concrete detailing such as quoin, pilaster, a pedimented entry, and jack arch lintels with keystones. Inside, the brick wainscoting, wood and glass doors, and wood trim are representative of the Colonial Revival style. The building is also illustrative of the modernization of public school building design in the early-to-mid-twentieth century. The building is currently vacant and retains much of its original architectural character, interior and exterior floor plans, and detailing.

### BACKGROUND

The city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, is located in the southeastern corner of the state and is the seat of Hamilton County. The Oak Grove Elementary School is located southeast of downtown in a dense urban residential neighborhood. The history of formal education in Chattanooga dates to 1819, when Robert Patterson established the first school for white children. A state-instituted school was first established in 1838, one year before the city of Chattanooga was incorporated. Other schooling options were available through churches. As elsewhere throughout the South, the Civil War disrupted the education of Chattanooga students. Following the war, Chattanooga's public school system became distinct from that of Hamilton County in 1872 when the city organized its own school system under its charter provisions.<sup>1</sup>

The Howard Free School was established for African-American students in 1872 by a northern philanthropic group. Shortly after this, the city's first public school for white students, a one-story, three-room building, was located on Georgia Avenue. Another city school was operated in a rented building on Sixth Street, west of Market Street; a third school held classes in a church on Cowart Street. By 1873, the Board of Education was facing financial difficulty. Individual board members signed notes of \$1000 to perpetuate the nascent school system. In 1874, a "Civil Rights" bill being considered in Congress would have required integration, an action that many in Chattanooga feared would end the newly established Board and system. (Instead, separate schools for white and black students were operated for nearly one hundred more years). By 1875 the city was able to meet its budget of \$15,000 for school buildings and \$10,000 for maintenance. Principals earned a salary of \$90-\$100, and their assistants (teachers) earned \$25-\$55. By 1900, the city school budget grew to \$100,000 or more per year.<sup>2</sup>

Chattanooga's school system was forced to adopt half-day sessions by 1888 due to the growing number of students. The city acquired and/or constructed several more properties and buildings over the next decades, including those on

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<sup>1</sup> Zella Armstrong, *The History of Hamilton County and Chattanooga, Tennessee, Vol. II* (Johnson City, TN: The Overmountain Press, 1993), 159-61, 163.

<sup>2</sup> John Wilson, *Chattanooga's Story* (Chattanooga: Chattanooga News Free Press, 1980), 397-99.

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Montgomery Avenue in 1888 and on Long Street in 1891. Still, there were not enough grammar schools to accommodate the city's students. Some districts were subdivided to construct new school buildings, while others enlarged existing buildings. In 1898 the city created three school districts: the first comprised the first, sixth, and seventh wards; the second comprised the second, third, and fourth wards; the third district comprised the fifth and eighth wards. In 1904, a black school was built on Fifth Street, and a new high school opened on East Eighth Street. H.D. Wyatt, the city's first school superintendent, was made principal of the high school. In 1905, the city added a fourth school district, consisting of the ninth ward. Another high school was opened on Eleventh Street in 1911.<sup>3</sup>

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Chattanooga, as in cities across the nation, began to expand outward. Streetcars replaced horse-drawn transportation, becoming vehicles not only of daily commuters, but also of expansion of the urban landscape and development of suburbs.<sup>4</sup> Oak Grove, Highland Park and Ridgedale, all to the southeast of downtown Chattanooga, became readily accessible locations for residential development. More schools were needed, and in 1907, the city issued bonds for school buildings. Land was purchased on Chestnut and Jefferson streets and Highland Park Avenue. By 1910 the combined student body enrollment of Hamilton County and the city of Chattanooga was 16,521. Average daily attendance was 11,918. The city student body totaled 6,079; the county, 10,442. This number included enrollees at Hamilton County's Central High School, which was open to city and county students.<sup>5</sup>

## OAK GROVE

During this time, Chattanooga's city school superintendent was D.A. Graves. One of the schools established during his tenure (1909-1914) was a grammar school in the suburb of Oak Grove, southeast of downtown Chattanooga.<sup>6</sup> Until 1911, Chattanooga's public schools were directed by the Board of Education. In that year the schools "came under the control of a member of the Board of Commissioners."<sup>7</sup> In 1913, when the Oak Grove School opened, that person was H. Clay Evans. Both Commissioner Evans and Superintendent Graves were speakers at the new school's dedication ceremony on May 19, 1913.<sup>8</sup>

The Oak Grove Elementary School, also referred to as the Oak Grove Grammar School, was constructed at a cost of \$24,000 to Hamilton County. However, as Commissioner Evans explained to local newspapers and in his speech on the future of the school, "Oak Grove will be part of the city of Chattanooga June 1," ostensibly through the annexation of the neighborhood.<sup>9</sup> The dedication ceremony was planned and conducted by the Oak Grove Business League, established in 1912. Members of this group included Fred M. Dearing, J. L. Roper, A.D. Johnson, Albert E. Merriam, and R.M. Morris. As boosters of the neighborhood, the League campaigned ardently for the establishment of the school.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 400, 402.

<sup>4</sup> Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 102-03.

<sup>5</sup> Wilson, 405-06.

<sup>6</sup> James W. Livingwood, *A History of Hamilton County* (Memphis, TN: Memphis state University Press, 1981), 478.

<sup>7</sup> Armstrong, 164.

<sup>8</sup> "Oak Grove Jubilates," *Chattanooga Free Press*. May 18, 1913, Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

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Located at 1912 South Willow Street, the original brick school building had two stories and a three-bay façade with a central, one-story portico entrance. The building had banks of windows across both stories on each elevation. Photographic evidence shows that the building acquired an additional wing on the southwest elevation by 1928, suggesting the growth of the student body, thus the community surrounding the school. An auditorium was added in 1936 to the northeast elevation, perpendicular to the main body of the school building.<sup>10</sup> The exterior entrance of this section matched that of the main section, with concrete quoins at the corners and keystones above windows. The auditorium wing was designed by Chattanooga architect Gordon L. Smith who designed numerous school buildings and residences in the city in the early- to mid-twentieth century.

The Oak Grove neighborhood in the mid-twentieth century was primarily a white, working class area. Common occupations in the neighborhood included police officers, firemen, shopkeepers, and factory workers. The school was a community center, symbolically and literally, as various meetings and activities were held there. These uses were facilitated by the 1936 addition of an auditorium. This addition nearly doubled the size of the school to over 25,000 square feet, one of the largest in the city school system at the time, with a student body of 600.<sup>11</sup>

Annual directories of the city's public schools illustrate the changing population of the Oak Grove Elementary School over time. During the 1922-1923 school year, principal J. E. Walker and twelve teachers were employed at the school. This staff number was the same during the 1930-1931 school year, when the principal was Nellie Bell.<sup>12</sup> The Directory of Chattanooga Public Schools for 1942-43 lists Oak Grove's principal as "to be supplied." The reason for the curious entry was the displacement of Oak Grove's 600 students that school year due to a fire in 1941 that consumed the original (1913) portion of the school.<sup>13</sup>

On March 5, 1941, Police Detective C.P. Knowles, who resided at 1815 Willow Street, noticed smoke coming from the Oak Grove school building. At 4:15 a.m., he telephoned the fire department. Seven fire engines from three companies arrived to find the building ablaze. Fire Marshall H.S. Elkins reported that an investigation of the burned building indicated the cause of the fire was possibly spontaneous combustion of non-flammable cleaning supplies in a storage room on the main floor.<sup>14</sup> By the next day, plans were in place to accommodate students from Oak Grove Elementary School at various locations. First graders were to attend class at a community building at East Lake Courts. Second through fifth graders residing east of Willow Street were sent to Ridgedale School; those living west of Willow Street were sent to Highland Park School. Sixth grade students were accommodated at East Side Junior High School. Teachers from Oak Grove Elementary School accompanied their pupils in each instance.<sup>15</sup>

By early April of 1941, City School Superintendent W. T. Robinson reported that Oak Grove Elementary School would be rebuilt, though no definite timetable was yet established. Damages to the school amounted to \$52,000,

<sup>10</sup> "Oak Grove School Ravaged by Fire," *Chattanooga Free Press*. March 6, 1941, Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*; "Oak Grove School Sale expected to get City OK," *Chattanooga Free Press*. April 21, 1997, Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

<sup>12</sup> *Directory - Chattanooga Public Schools, 1922-1923* (Chattanooga: Board of Education, 1923), n.p.; *Directory - Chattanooga Public Schools, 1930-1931* (Chattanooga: Board of Education, 1931), n.p..

<sup>13</sup> *Directory - Chattanooga Public Schools, 1942-1943* (Chattanooga: Board of Education, 1923), n.p..

<sup>14</sup> "Oak Grove School is Ravaged by Fire."

<sup>15</sup> "Oak Grove Pupils to Resume Study," *Chattanooga Free Press*. March 7, 1941, Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

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Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

exceeding fire insurance coverage. Robinson was certain only that it was impossible to have the school restored by the beginning of the school year that fall.<sup>16</sup> Due to funding constraints construction on the new building did not begin until 1942 and the formal dedication and opening of the school was delayed until 1944. Yet, during these interim years, the school continued in name, and its students and staff, assigned to other, temporary locations, were still identified by the Oak Grove Elementary School name in city school directories. Despite the disruption and displacement after the fire, Oak Grove Elementary School continued to grow. During the 1943-1944 school year, teaching staff expanded to fifteen.<sup>17</sup> The new school building was designed in the Colonial Revival style by architect Gordon Laidlaw Smith and the school was gradually completed from 1942 to early 1944. Smith originally practiced architecture in Cincinnati and moved to Chattanooga in 1919. After a brief period working for the firm of Reuben H. Hunt, Smith opened his own practice and his designs included a number of schools including the Ridgedale Grammar School. He had a wide variety of other commissions in the city including residences as well as schools and other public buildings. He continued his practice until his death in 1967.

The Oak Grove Parent-Teacher Association organized the dedication ceremony for the rebuilt Oak Grove School building on April 22, 1944. City Commissioner of Education R. M. Cooke delivered the dedication address. He credited the completion of "this modern institution" to the principal (N.C. Carr), the faculty, the city school system, and the "wonderful spirit of the school patrons."<sup>18</sup> The depiction of the new school building as up-to-date and modern reflects the progressive trend in architecture to provide efficiently designed space in a safe environment. As sanitation and health issues came under scrutiny in the early twentieth century, citizens and public officials came to focus attention on good health and safety standards. Efficiency and simplicity of building design proved conducive to a safe and orderly learning environment. Designs for school buildings became specific as to dimensions, spatial organization, window-to-floor area ratio, ceiling height, and construction materials.<sup>19</sup>

The Oak Grove School building, which consists of its 1942 main body and its 1936 auditorium, exhibits the essential features of what was then considered an up-to-date elementary school building. Serving grades one through six (sometimes eight), elementary schools ideally had classrooms designed for up to forty students per classroom, the recommended dimensions were thirty to thirty-one feet long, twenty-two feet wide, and twelve feet high. Classrooms should have wood or concrete floors and painted or plaster walls, with wainscoting if desired. Glass area of windows should be sixteen to twenty percent of the floor area. One or two doors leading to the hall should have a clear glass panel or a clear wire glass pane and swing 180 degrees into the hallway corridor. A transom above should be hinged at the bottom and swing into the classroom.<sup>20</sup> Corridors and stairwell recommendations included walls with painting or plaster with optional wainscoting. Stairwells should be of fireproof material such as concrete or metal. Modern standards dictated one stairwell, four feet in width, for every 200 students.<sup>21</sup> The corresponding features at Oak Grove

<sup>16</sup> "Oak Grove School Will Be Restored," *Chattanooga Free Press*. April 9, 1941, Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

<sup>17</sup> *Directory - Chattanooga Public Schools, 1942-1943* (Chattanooga: Board of Education, 1923), n.p..

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*; "Oak Grove School is Dedicated Here," *Chattanooga Free Press*. April 22, 1944, Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

<sup>19</sup> Ellen Swallow Richards, "Human Ecology and the Habits of Sanitation in the Modern Urban Environment," in Chris J. Magoc, ed., *So Glorious a Landscape: Nature and Environment in American History and Culture* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources Inc., 2002), 142-43.

<sup>20</sup> John J. Donovan, *Method of Procedure and Checking Schedule for Planning School Building* (New York: The Bruce Company, 1931), 34-41.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 96.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

Elementary School met these recommendations (though current windows and classroom doors on the first floor are replacements).

Likewise, the interior components of the classrooms at Oak Grove School exhibit the model standards of period. Slate chalkboards, varying in height from floor to accommodate various ages, are located at the front of the classrooms. Cloakrooms are at the rear, and individual cubbyholes, sized ten to twelve inches, are located along the wall opposite the windows. Heating radiators are located below windows, and light switches at the front of the room.<sup>22</sup> All of these were recommended design features. The recommended placement of an elementary school auditorium was at the end of the building, as at Oak Grove School, to isolate the sounds of performances and provide a safe exiting flow. The size of the auditorium is in proportion to seating capacity: a 1200 member audience would need a space of 102' x 62' with a ceiling at 38'6" from the lowest level of the orchestra or band floor, which would be six feet below the stage. The stage was recommended to be three or four feet above the audience floor. The depth of the stage should be a minimum of twenty feet.<sup>23</sup> Currently, a raised floor in Oak Grove School's auditorium is within a foot of the stage floor; however, a collapsed portion of this raised floor reveals that the original floor met the ideal dimensions in relation to the stage and ceiling. The stage depth is appropriate as well. Though the rear of the auditorium has been closed off for another purpose, its original dimensions are well within the recommendations for performances by its student body.

Oak Grove Elementary School appears to have continued growing into the 1950s. During the 1948-49 school year, eighteen teachers were employed there. This number increased to nineteen during the 1958-59 school year, when the principal was Hugh C. Clabough. It is noteworthy that the total student body had decreased from its peak of 600 to 491, resulting in an improved student-teacher ratio, from 50:1 to 26:1.<sup>24</sup>

Various statistics indicate a shift in demographics around this time. A 1948 school census reported that "the city of Chattanooga would receive 63.41% of the proceeds of a countywide [joint city and county] school bond issue." By 1950, Chattanooga and Hamilton County officials questioned these numbers as obsolete, due to a recognized gain in the county population.<sup>25</sup> The 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation of public schools was unconstitutional was a catalyst for racial tension and changing demographics. Local African-Americans staged sit-ins and other non-violent methods to secure social and political equality. They were met with resistance, and white residents, business, and churches moved to the suburbs. City public schools only relented to desegregation by federal court order in 1962. Racial violence erupted in Chattanooga throughout the 1960s and 1970s.<sup>26</sup>

In 1966, the city of Chattanooga had a total of forty-four schools. Of these twenty-five were desegregated, seven were all-white, and twelve were all-black. Thirty-one of the forty-four schools had desegregated teaching staff. By

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Donovan, 65-68.

<sup>24</sup> *Directory - Chattanooga Public Schools, 1948-1949* (Chattanooga: Board of Education, 1949), n.p.; *Directory - Chattanooga Public Schools, 1958-1959* (Chattanooga: Board of Education, 1959), n.p..

<sup>25</sup> *A Comparison of interest Costs on School Construction Bonds when Issued by Hamilton County or by the City of Chattanooga* (Nashville: Tennessee Taxpayers Association, 1950), 3.

<sup>26</sup> Timothy Ezzell, "Chattanooga," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*; online, <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/> accessed June 10, 2008; Wilson, 393, 398.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

comparison, only seventeen of Hamilton County's fifty-nine schools were desegregated; thirty-six were all-white and six were all-black. Only six of the county's fifty-nine schools had a desegregated teaching staff.<sup>27</sup>

The effects of out-migration from Chattanooga are evident in the dwindling numbers at Oak Grove Elementary School. Enrollment during the 1967-68 school year was down to 398. The following year, this number decreased to 389. Teaching staff was back down to twelve, plus two special education instructors. Yet, the school employed several part-time specialized instructors for art, music, Bible studies, a librarian, a social worker, a hearing and speech worker, and several teacher aides. The principal at the time was Joe Shadwick; Mrs. Mildred Sciotti, the cafeteria manager, had a cook and three helpers; and the school had three custodial employees.<sup>28</sup>

During the 1960s, the neighborhood and the school began to change demographically. Oak Grove Elementary School became desegregated as African-American students began attending classes there. Young families moved to the suburbs, and the remaining population was aging. The sense of community that had characterized Oak Grove for several decades began to disintegrate. By 1989 there were not enough area children to support an elementary school, and Oak Grove was closed as a public school. The school was one of sixteen public city schools closed that year and declared surplus.<sup>29</sup>

Among the sixteen surplus buildings, several have been successfully re-adapted for use by churches and museums, for example. An attempt was made to re-use the Oak Grove School building in the late 1990s as a day care center and computer science school. Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Lee offered the city \$35,000 for the school building in 1997. However, this endeavor experienced financial difficulties and ceased operation. Despite this particular failed re-use, the Oak Grove Elementary School building remains "ideally located for an adaptive reuse project such as apartment housing."<sup>30</sup> City Council members and Oak Grove community leaders agree enthusiastically that the historic building, symbolic of the neighborhood for many decades, could once again become an asset to the area as a privately owned, income-producing property. The current owner has plans to rehabilitate the building using the federal preservation tax incentives.

In addition to its contributions to the Chattanooga school system, the Oak Grove Elementary School is representative of the city's Colonial Revival style school buildings of the mid-twentieth century. The Colonial Revival style was a preferred design for school buildings constructed across the state and in Chattanooga during the twentieth century. The Colonial Revival style was widely popular for residences and public buildings during this era and several similar schools constructed in this design have also been listed on the National Register in Chattanooga. One of these was the Richard Hardy Junior High School designed by the firm of Reuben H. Hunt. This building was constructed in 1925 and was listed on the National Register for its role in Chattanooga educational system and architectural design. The East Side Junior High School built in 1917, was also listed on the National Register and was also designed in the Colonial Revival style. Both the Richard Hardy and East Side schools were considered outdated by the city and demolished in recent years. A similar school building remaining extant is Wyatt Hall, which was listed on the National Register in 1986. This Colonial Revival style building was designed by Reuben H. Hunt, built in 1921 and

<sup>27</sup> *Desegregation Report on Tennessee's Public Elementary and Secondary Schools* (Nashville: State Department of Education, 1966), n.p.

<sup>28</sup> *Directory - Chattanooga Public Schools, 1968-1969* (Chattanooga: Board of Education, 1969), n.p.

<sup>29</sup> "Oak Grove School Sale Expected to Get City OK," *Chattanooga Free Press*. April 21, 1997, Vertical files,

Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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expanded in 1935. The Oak Grove Elementary School is part of this tradition of Colonial Revival style public schools in the city and retains much of its original design and character.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 13

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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“Oak Grove School Ravaged by Fire.” *Chattanooga Free Press*. March 6, 1941. Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

“Oak Grove School Sale Expected to Get City OK.” *Chattanooga Free Press*. April 21, 1997. Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

“Oak Grove School Will Be Restored.” *Chattanooga Free Press*. April 9, 1941. Vertical files, Chattanooga Public Library, viewed June 5, 2008.

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Oak Grove Elementary School  
Name of Property

Hamilton County, TN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.8 acres Chattanooga Quad 105-SE

**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 656985 3876659  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Andra Kowalczyk Martens  
organization Thomason and Associates date April 4, 2011  
street & number 1907 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. S. telephone 615-385-4960  
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

**Additional Documentation**

submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

**Property Owner**

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

name Little Red School House, LLC, c/o Steve Barnhardt  
street & number 7891 Estate Dr. telephone 423-255-4830  
city or town North Port state FL zip code 34286

**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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 15

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Oak Grove Elementary School is part of a 1.8-acre tract within the city limits of Chattanooga in Hamilton County listed as Map 156 G, Group D, Parcels 007, 008, and 009. Beginning at northeast corner of East 20<sup>th</sup> Street and South Willow Street, the northern boundary moves east for approximately 385' along Willow Street; then it moves east along an imaginary line next to the adjacent property at 1902 South Willow Street (Map 156 G, Group D, Parcel 010) for approximately 145' forming the eastern boundary of the property. Then it moves southwest for approximately 385' forming the southern boundary until it comes to East 20<sup>th</sup> Street; then it moves north along East 20<sup>th</sup> Street forming the western boundary to the point of the beginning.

## VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Oak Grove Elementary School includes the entire 1.8-acre parcel that was purchased by the Hamilton County Board of Education in 1911. This property was transferred to the city of Chattanooga in 1913. The property contains the school building (contributing), an adjacent side lot with a (non-contributing) playground, two associated metal structures: a contributing flagpole and non-contributing sign. The 1.8-acre parcel includes all extant properties associated with the Oak Grove Elementary School.



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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 16

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs by: Andra Martens, Thomason and Associates

Date: April 19, 2011

Digital image: TN Historical Commission

Northwest façade, facing northeast

1 of 17

Northwest facade, facing northeast

2 of 17

Northwest facade, facing southwest

3 of 17

Northwest façade and southwest elevation, facing northeast

4 of 17

Northwest facade and northeast elevation, facing south

5 of 17

Northeast elevation, facing south

6 of 17

Rear elevation of 1936 auditorium and 1942 main building, facing northeast

7 of 17

Southeast elevation, facing west

8 of 17

Northeast elevation, facing west

9 of 17

Southwest elevation, facing northeast

10 of 17

Interior: original classroom door and transom

11 of 17

Auditorium, facing east

12 of 17

Hall and main entrance, facing northwest

13 of 17

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 17

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

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First floor hallway, facing southwest  
14 of 17

Second floor hallway, facing southwest  
15 of 17

Classroom interior, facing northeast  
16 of 17

Classroom interior, facing southwest  
17 of 17



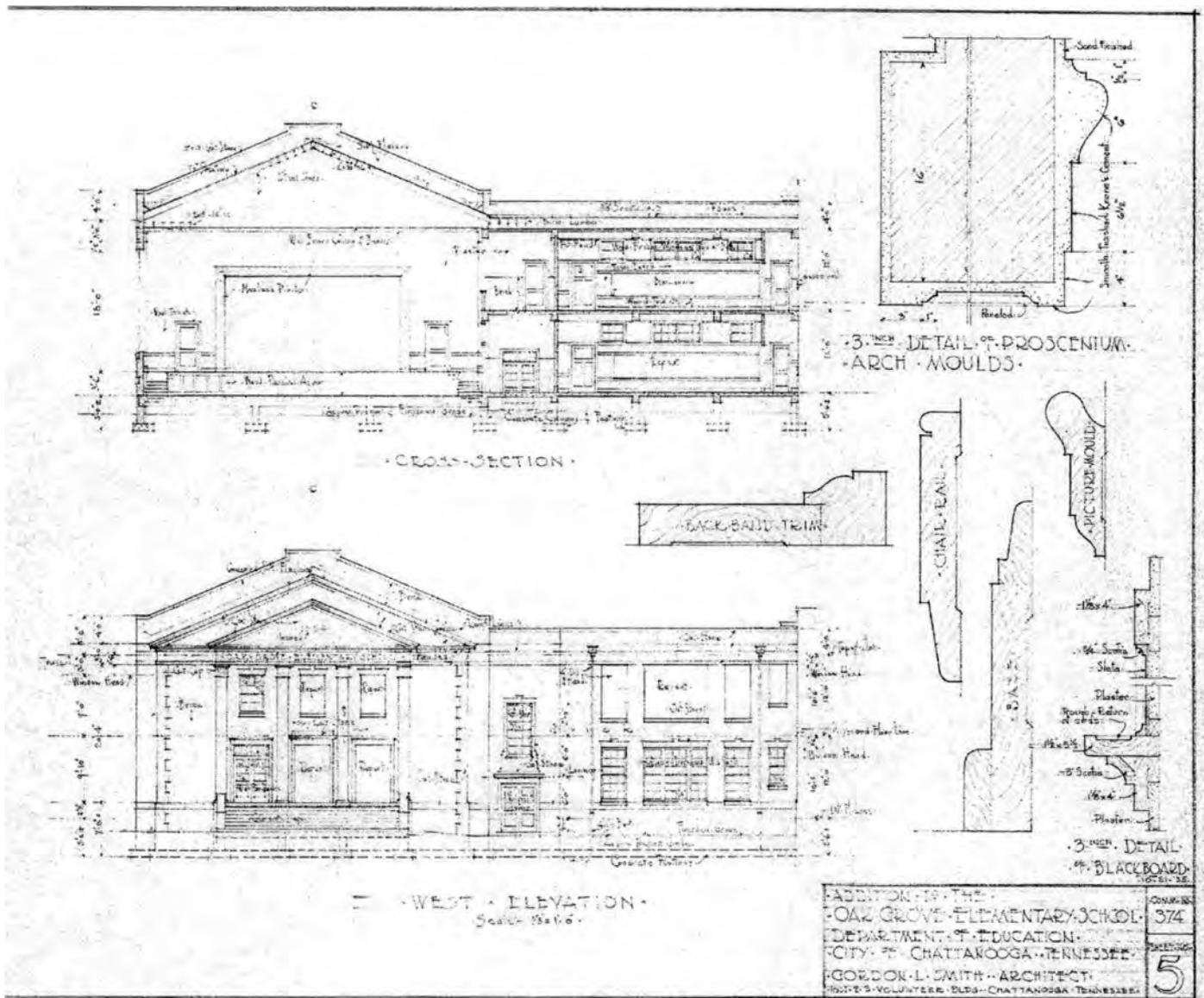
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      plans      Page      19

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

1935 elevation



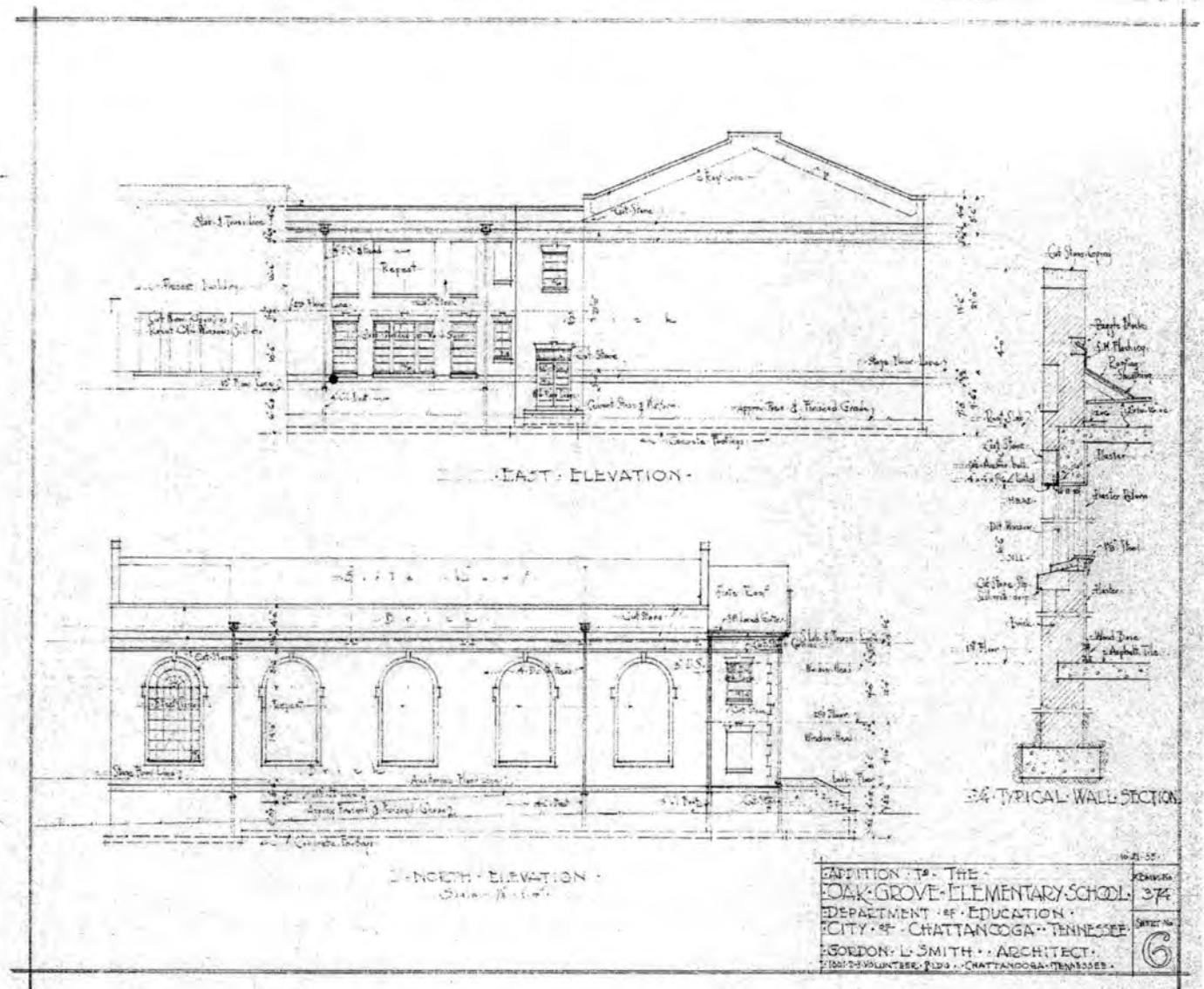
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number plans Page 20

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

1935 elevation





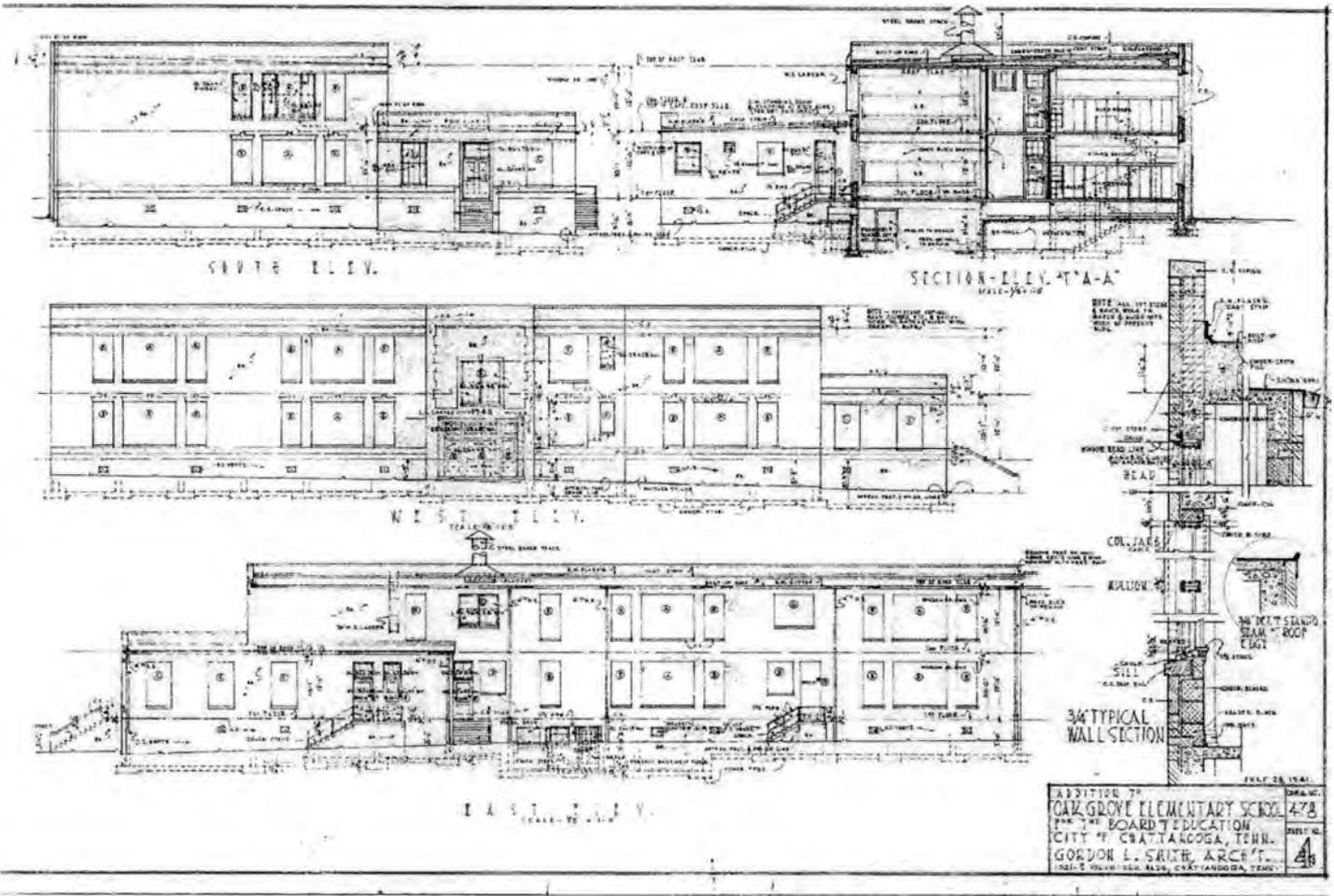
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      plans      Page      22

Oak Grove Elementary School  
Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

1941 elevation



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Oak Grove Elementary School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Hamilton

DATE RECEIVED: 5/27/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/17/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/05/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/12/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000420

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 7.6.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



HAMILTON COUNTY



FOR SALE  
CALL RAY  
OR  
CENTRAL



OAK GROVE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

















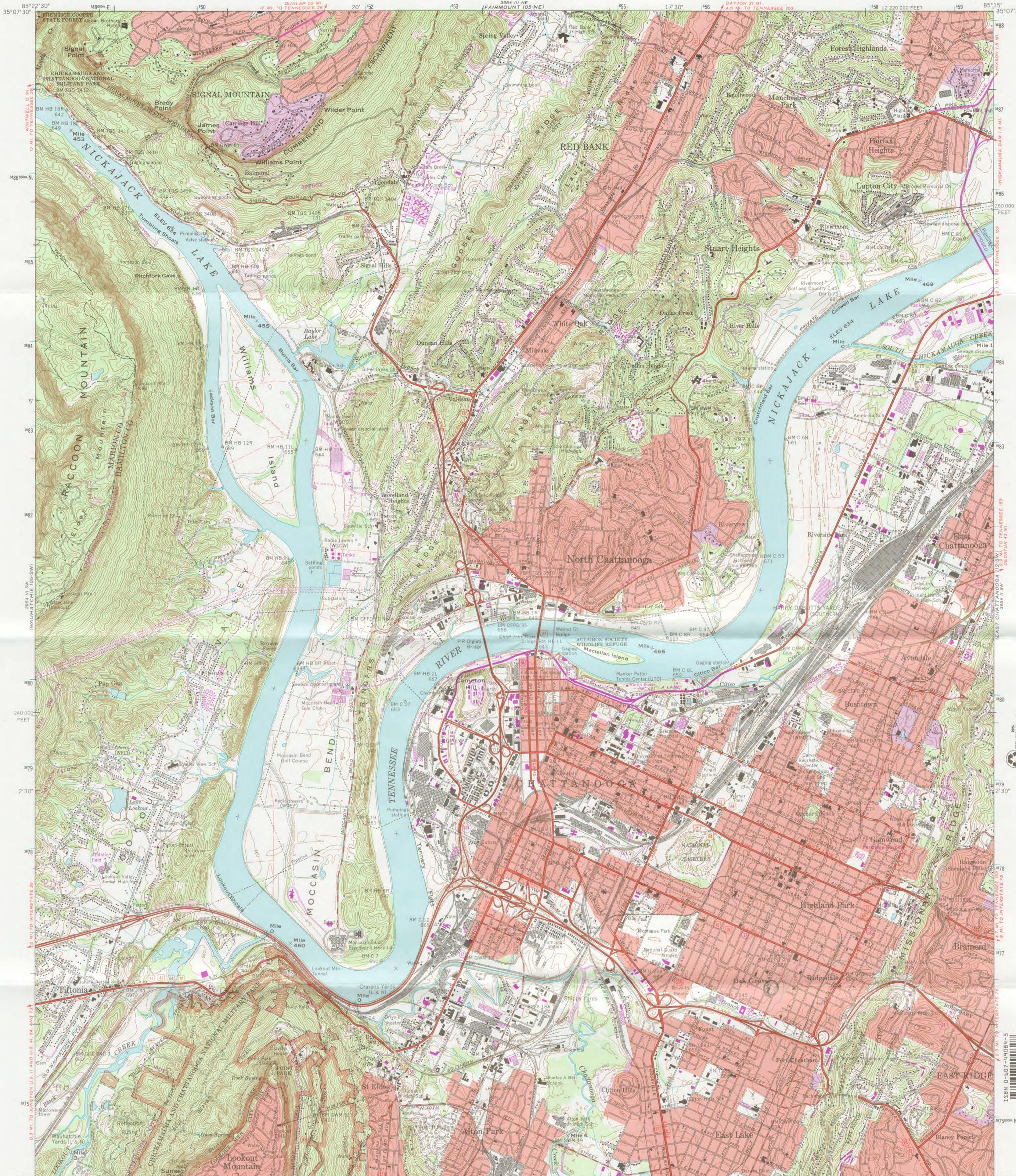












Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority Published by the Geological Survey Control by NOS/NOAA, USGS, CE, and TVA

Revised by TVA in 1968 by photogrammetric methods using aerial photographs taken 1968 and by reference to TVA/USGS quadrangle dated 1958. Map field checked by TVA, 1969

Polynomial projection, 1927 North American datum 10,000 foot grid based on Tennessee rectangular coordinate system 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator Grid ticks, Zone 16, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple and recompilation of woodland areas compiled by the Tennessee Valley Authority from aerial photographs taken 1976. This information not field checked Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1976 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

0° 0' 17" M

0° 0' 17" M

0° 0' 17" M

0° 0' 17" M

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENN. 37243 AND U.S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 37401 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

DASHED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HAMILTON COUNTY TN 161656 995/3876658

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty Medium-duty Light-duty Interstate Route U. S. Route Slate Route

Poor motor road Wagon and jeep track Foot trail

In developed areas, only through roads are classified

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 35085-A3-TF-024

1969 PHOTOREVISED 1976 DMA 3954 III SE-SERIES 1984

9 780607 490848

ISSN 0-107-49084-5

1:25,000 TO INTERSTATE 75

1:25,000 TO INTERSTATE 75

1:25,000 TO INTERSTATE 75

**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW**

**CLG:** Chattanooga  
**PROPERTY:** Oak Grove Elementary School  
**ADDRESS:** 1912 South Willow Street, Chattanooga

**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL EVALUATION**

**NAME OF OFFICIAL:**

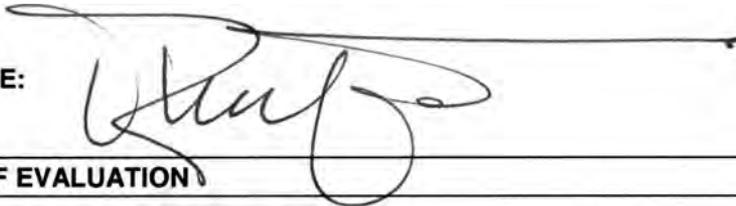
**TITLE:**

- ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

**SIGNATURE:**

**TITLE:**



**DATE:**

**THC STAFF EVALUATION**

- ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

The school is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C for its local significance in education and architecture. Composed of the 1936 auditorium and 1942 main building, the school is a good example of Colonial Revival design. In the area of education, the school was an important elementary school in the city at mid-century.

**SIGNATURE:**

**TITLE:** Historic Preservation Specialist



**DATE:**

3/15/11

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: May 4, 2011**

**RETURN FORM TO:**

**CLAUDETTE STAGER  
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442**

**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW**

**CLG:** Chattanooga  
**PROPERTY:** Oak Grove Elementary School  
**ADDRESS:** 1912 South Willow Street, Chattanooga

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EVALUATION**

**NAME OF COMMISSION:**  
**DATE OF MEETING:**  
**HOW WAS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING?**  
 **ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**  
 **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

*Our neighborhood schools are an important piece of the Chattanooga history - as cultural centers and for the significant contribution to architecture.*

**SIGNATURE:**  
**TITLE:**

*[Handwritten Signature]*

**DATE:**

*4/21/11*

**THC STAFF EVALUATION**

**ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**  
 **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

The school is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C for its local significance in education and architecture. Composed of the 1936 auditorium and 1942 main building, the school is a good example of Colonial Revival design. In the area of education, the school was an important elementary school in the city at mid-century.

**SIGNATURE:**

**TITLE:** Historic Preservation Specialist

**DATE:**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: May 4, 2011**

**RETURN FORM TO:**

**CLAUDETTE STAGER  
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442**



**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442  
(615) 532-1550



May 20, 2011

Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
National Register Branch  
1201 Eye Street NW  
8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate the *Oak Grove Elementary School* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Claudette Stager at 615/532-1550, extension 105 or [Claudette.stager@tn.gov](mailto:Claudette.stager@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM:cs

Enclosures