

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY NOMINATION FORM

TITLE Buildings in Hamilton County Designed by R.H. Hunt Thematic Resources COUNTY Hamilton
SITE 22

HISTORIC NAME: Wyatt Hall
COMMON NAME: Chattanooga High School/Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences
ADDRESS: 865 East Third Street
Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

OWNER: City of Chattanooga Board of Education
OWNER'S ADDRESS: 1161 West 40th Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37409

HISTORIC USE: high school CURRENT USE: school
CATEGORY/BUILDING TYPE: school building
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1920-1921 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: R.H. Hunt/George Beckham
ORIGINAL SITE: Yes MOVED: NA DATE: NA
ORIGINAL OWNER/SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS: City of Chattanooga Board of Education

HAS THIS PROPERTY BEEN DETERMINED ELIGIBLE? No DATE: NA

CONTRIBUTING	NON-CONTRIBUTING	ACREAGE: <u>2.46 acres</u>
<u>1</u> buildings	<u>0</u> buildings	UTM REFERENCE: <u>16/655540 /</u>
<u>0</u> structures	<u>0</u> structures	<u>3879700</u>
<u>0</u> sites	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>0</u> objects	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>1</u> total	<u>0</u> total	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION The nominated property is rectangular in shape and 2.46 acres in size. It is bounded on the south by East Third Street, and on the east, north, and west by adjoining property lines. This includes sufficient land to protect the historic setting and architectural integrity of Wyatt Hall.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:
Chattanooga Times, 12 December 1921; 26 June 1986.
Shannon, Willie. Plant Planner, Chattanooga Public Schools, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Interview, May 1986.
Wade, Elizabeth Kelley. History of Chattanooga High School. Chattanooga. Chattanooga High School, 1974.
PREPARED BY: NAME & TITLE Hugh K. Johnston Project Coordinator
ADDRESS: Chattanooga Public Schools, 1161 West 40th Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37409 DATE: June 1986

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY NOMINATION FORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

TITLE Buildings in Hamilton County Designed
by R.H. Hunt Thematic Resources

SITE 10
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DESCRIPTION: Constructed in 1920-1921, Wyatt Hall is an imposing three story school designed by R.H. Hunt. The Georgian Revival style building is faced with red brick and embellished with limestone trim. Structurally, the building consists of a reinforced concrete frame with clay tile and a wood roof structure. The building is presently being rehabilitated and still retains its architectural integrity.

The dominant feature of the building is the four story, five bay entrance. A monumental staircase flanked by limestone balustrades leads to three multiple pane glass doors. The doors are surmounted by semi-circular fanlights and flanked by fluted columns and plain pilasters. A limestone pediment containing a cartouche with "WH" inscribed on it and a limestone balustrade are other decorative elements on this section. The taller entrance contrasts with the horizontal lines of the rest of the building. Secondary entrances along the facade complement the main entrance. Multi-pane sash windows and limestone quoins ornament the facade and the other elevations, including the 1935 wings.

The interior contains approximately sixty classrooms, a 950 seat auditorium, a cafeteria, a study, a library, a band room, music rooms and a gymnasium. The main lobby, at the second story level, and the lobby on the third story, are embellished by paneled pilasters and crown moldings with egg and dart and dentil trim. Wood lockers, doors capped by transom lights, and terrazo floors line the corridors. A prominent feature of the interior is the auditorium. Large multi-pane windows flank both sides of the assembly area. The stage area is ornamented with acanthus leaf and floral motif designs. The original light fixtures and seats are extant. A c.1955 mural depicting John Ross is located in the school office. (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE:

CRITERIA: C CONSIDERATION: NA
AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture
PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE/SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1920-1921/1935
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

Wyatt Hall is significant to this thematic nomination as an excellent representation of an educational facility designed by R.H. Hunt. The Georgian Revival style school is highlighted by a four story entrance embellished with a limestone pediment, pilasters and quoins. The interior retains wood doors with transom lights and classical style plaster trim. Although Hunt designed numerous school buildings, few of his unaltered schools remain in Chattanooga. Both the main building and 1935 addition were designed by Hunt. Wyatt Hall retains its architectural integrity.

The school building was named in honor of Professor Henry D. Wyatt, the founder of the public school system in Chattanooga. The first public school in the city was established in 1872 and in 1874 the first public high school was opened. Wyatt was both a teacher and the first superintendent of schools.

Wyatt Hall was dedicated in December, 1921. It was built during a period of expansion in the city school system. Within the previous three years a new grammar school and another high school were completed, rooms were added onto two older school buildings, and property was purchased with the intent of constructing two more school buildings. Enrollment in the high school had grown from 396 students in 1910 to 1,025 students in 1921. During the same time span the school budget had increased from \$90,000 to \$525,000.

Both the architect R.H. Hunt and the builder George Beckham spoke at the dedication ceremonies. Beckham reported that over 1,000,000 bricks and 5,000 square yards of cement were utilized in the construction of the high school.

In 1935 two wings were added to accommodate the increase in students. Hunt designed the additions to be compatible with his original design. Wyatt Hall was used as a high school from 1921-1983. Presently the building is being used as a school of nursing. It is being rehabilitated for use as an arts and sciences school for grades five through eight. Eventually grades kindergarden through twelve may occupy the school. Plaster walls and ceilings are being repainted, woodwork is being stained or repainted, shelves and lockers are being refinished, auditorium seats are being cleaned, and ornamental moldings are being refurbished. Both the nursing school and arts and sciences school will occupy the building this fall.

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY NOMINATION FORM --CONTINUATION SHEET

Buildings in Hamilton County Designed
TITLE by R.H. Hunt Thematic Resources

SITE 10
PAGE 3 of 3

DESCRIPTION:

The daylighting and ventilation systems inherent in the original school design demonstrate some of the principles which were taken for granted and eventually forgotten until the energy crisis of the late seventies. The transom lights provide for the transfer of light and air from the outside via the classrooms. A series of well planned ventilation shafts and fans help to cool the building during warmer months.

SIGNIFICANCE:

C

NA

CRITERIA:

CONSIDERATION:

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE/SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1920-1921/1935

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

NOMINATED
PROPERTY



Wyatt Hall
865 East Third Street
Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

TAX MAP 1" = 200'