

**DATA SHEET**  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 16 1979

APR 18 1979

DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Louisville Male High School

AND/OR COMMON

Male Traditional High School

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

911 South Brook Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 &amp; 4

STATE

Kentucky

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jefferson County Board of Education

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3332 Newburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Court House

STREET &amp; NUMBER

517 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1972

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the 900 block of Brook Street, Male High School was built in 1914 in a downtown residential neighborhood. The area has changed somewhat over the last sixty-five years, although there are still residential units in the immediate neighborhood. The school now faces Interstate 65, and Brook Street is a heavily traveled roadway.

Male High School was designed by local architect J. Earl Henry. In 1912, Henry was appointed as City Architect of schools, and between the years 1914 and 1918, designed some of the finest school buildings in the city. It is appropriate that Henry would use direct historical architectural references in the design of an educational institution.

The architectural prototypes used by Henry in the design of Male High School are Bramshill House, Hampshire (1605-1612), (View 7), and Charlton House, Greenwich (1607). (View 8) — Jacobean structures often referred to in architectural history. Henry incorporated the main portal from Bramshill (View 9), into the Male High School design as the main entrance to the school. The Bramshill portal, a Dietterlin reference full of extravagant elements, is toned down and compacted in the Male entrance. The arcade at Bramshill is more grand than that at Male, and the third story in the Male design is reduced to a parapet. But the parapet crestings and oriel crestings are identical to those at Bramshill. A crown motif in the center of the roundel at Bramshill is modified to a globe, and the floral motifs are replaced by Medieval grotesques, each holding a diploma.

In the absence of a third floor at Male, Henry incorporated several Jacobean motifs into the parapet design. Six lions holding crests are aligned with the pilasters from the second story and the columns from the first. Geometric patterns and other crests complete the design of the parapet.

The fluted and highly stylized pilasters at Bramshill are moderated to more classical pilasters at Male, but the Dietterlin style is retained by banding, cresting and geometrically patterned architraves.

The oriel windows in both designs are identical, with the same number of panes, flanking windows and pilasters and oriel cresting. The supporting corbel for the oriel window at Male is fluted and rests on the wings of an owl which holds a torch and scroll in his talons. The torch and scroll are also the keystone to the central arch of the first floor. In each spandrel of the arch, sits a contemplative grotesque, one reading and one studying a mathematics problem. These same figures are represented on the parapet cresting with diplomas.

Paired and single engaged columns on the first floor arcade are neo-Jacobean, not so much for their extravagance as for their departure from typical classical elements. The columns rest on geometrically designed tables and the capitals are dwarfed. The architrave carries the dates of construction and the name "Louisville Male High School" with tablets which are not inscribed. Tablets over the side arches are also without inscription.

Behind the arcade are three pairs of multi-paned doors, with semi-circular fanlights.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES	1914-1915	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	J. Earl Henry
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Male High School is one of Louisville's most prestigious secondary schools, its history dating from 1856. The school had long been associated with the University of Louisville. The handsome Neo-Jacobean structure which has housed the institution since 1914 is one of Louisville's most outstanding examples of this revival style and was designed by J. Earl Henry (c1884-1920). Henry was the architect for city schools and designed some of the most handsome school buildings in Louisville, all in the Neo-Jacobean style. The central portal is the key architectural element at Male, with an oriel window, parapet creating, grotesques, and other highly stylized features. Heavy quoining, banding and window surrounds are all in limestone, which brilliantly contrast the red brick surface. (See Section 7).

The history of Male High School plays an integral part in the history of education in Louisville. Founded April 7, 1856, it is the oldest educational institution in the city. In its earliest years, Male High School acted as the Academic Department of the University of Louisville, with powers independent from the University to grant degrees. Male High School was considered the university of the Public Schools in Louisville, with strict academic standards and entrance exams.

The history of education in Louisville can be traced to 1798. In that year, the Kentucky General Assembly granted a tract of state land for the founding of Jefferson Seminary in Louisville. Due to lack of money and bureaucratic set backs, the first class was not received into the seminary until 1816. The building the school opened in was located at Eighth and Chestnut Streets.

In 1830, by agreement between the city authorities and the trustees of the seminary, the school building and a large portion of the surrounding land became property of the City of Louisville. A high school was opened for the education of the children of all the citizens of Louisville. The name which this high school was given was Louisville College. In 1840, the "college" had been fairly successful and the city passed an ordinance which provided free tuition to thirty students annually, by competition, from the grammar schools.

During the late 1830's, the foundations of the University of Louisville were struggling to survive under the name of Collegiate Institute of Louisville. After much debate and controversy, the Collegiate Institute and Jefferson Seminary merged and the University was chartered in 1846. Louisville College was failing at this point in its history, and the Academic Department of the University of Louisville was intended to absorb the Louisville College. Again, lack of financial support delayed the Academic Department's opening. It eventually became evident to the city council that the Law and Medical Departments were receiving all of the financial

cont'd.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Adkins, Sam & Holtzman, M.R. The First Hundred Years: The Story of Louisville  
 Male High School. Louisville, Ky. m.p., 1956.  
 Jefferson County Deed Books  
 Kentucky Writers Project of the Works Projects Administration, A Centennial  
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 Summerson, John, Architecture in Britain, 1530-1830, Penguin Books, Baltimore, M.D. 1954.

(cont'd)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.05

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville West Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 609260 4233000

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the southeast corner of Brook and Breckinridge Sts., running approximately 300 feet southwardly to the northeast corner of Brook and Caldwell Sts., running thence eastwardly approximately 200 feet, thence (cont'd)

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

February 6, 1979.

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky 40202

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4-4-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
*[Handwritten Signature]*

DATE

7-18-79

ATTEST:

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4/17/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Louisville Trust Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 2

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Urban Design Survey

1968 County (SMSA)

Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments

208 South Fifth Street

Louisville Kentucky

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

1971 State

Kentucky Heritage Commission

104 Bridge Street

Frankfort Kentucky

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Louisville Male  
High School

CONTINUATION SHEET

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This elaborate portal, designed from Bramshill House, is the central bay of the school which is divided into thirteen bays across the facade. Only five bays are used on the side elevation of the original design (later additions have been made to the sides and rear of the building in similar styles) (see map 2). It is likely that Henry used as a prototype for the rest of the school's design, Charlton House, Greenwich(1607). Both Bramshill and Charlton are the most commonly cited examples of Jacobean architecture.

Charlton, as in many Jacobean homes, has projecting end bays, found also in the Male design. The heavy quoining and both vertical and horizontal divisions made in the brick surface with stonework, are prominent in both designs. But the most obvious similarity is the chamfered corner bay windows. The overall floor plan is, of course, enlarged for the design of the school, but the general attitude is certainly derived from Charlton.

The parapet at Charlton is very similar to the one at Male, although not identical. At Male the pierced stonework is not the continuous band that it is at Charlton. The design is, however, very similar. Henry has incorporated tablets with scrolls and other educational motifs into the parapet design.

The materials used in the construction of the school are red brick for the surface, and limestone for the portal, parapet, quoining, banding and all window surrounds.

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 2

interest of the University. Therefore, in 1855, the Louisville School Board took over the building of the Academic Department of the University (View 1), rent free, in which to operate a high school. One year later, April 7, 1856, this high school, or the Academic Department of the University, opened with an enrollment of forty-two students, thus, the official birth of Male High School. Finally, on February 28, 1860, the legislature passed a bill which legalized the name Male High School, which the school had been using all along, and gave it a college rating with powers independent from the University to grant degrees of B.A., B.S., and M.A. This status was retained until 1913, when the school joined the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Male High School continued to use the Academic Department Building of the University until 1898, even though it was no longer legally part of the University after 1860. Many bitter moments arose during those years between the two institutions, who fought for rents, for degree granting status, and for pride.

As measured by present day standards, Male High School was a junior college during the years 1856-1913. But by the standards of its day, Male gave an education comparable to any average mid-west college. The curriculum was intense and admission was by examination only. In the eighty-seven years that Male High School granted University degrees, the curriculum too matched any mid-western University and was often criticized for its strict standards.

In 1894, Male High School moved from the University of Louisville campus to a building at First and Chestnut Streets (View 4). The building which Male occupied on that site has been incorporated into the present structure of Ahrens Trade School. The Louisville Female School built the structure in 1878. Male remained at this location for only a decade, when they moved to their present location at Brook and Breckinridge Streets. The lot of the present site was purchased by the alumni of Male and deeded to the Board of Education with the stipulation that the school to be erected would be for boys only.

During Male's many years of growth, many changes occurred, and none without struggle. The early curriculum was classical, with no concentrations in technical or manual training. In 1868, after great debate, chemistry and physics were added to the curriculum. In 1890, manual training was introduced, but only as an extra-curricular activity. However, so much interest was shown in manual training, that in 1892, the DuPont Manual Training High School was opened. This caused a great deal of competition for Male, and in 1915 the schools merged, transferring all manual training classes to the DuPont Building at Brook and Oak Streets. It took only four short years to recognize the ultimate failure in this merger, and in 1919 the two schools were again separated. An arch rivalry has existed ever since.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

ITEM NUMBER

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3

The last and most controversial change came in 1952 when the School Board announced that Male would not only become co-education, but that the name would be changed to Rueben Post Halleck High School. Great demonstrations took place, and a compromise was reached. The name would be changed to Louisville Male and Girls High School, with the women admitted in the fall of 1952. Even that compromise was weakened, however, when in 1955, the name was again changed back to Louisville Male High School.

The present building which houses Male High School was designed by local architect J. Earl Henry (1884-1920). Henry was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, and was educated at Illinois State University where he graduated with a B. S. in Architecture in 1906. Henry worked for several years as a draftsman and designer for the local architect Brinton B. Davis. From 1912 to 1919, Henry served as architect for the City School Board. During those years he was responsible for the designs of several handsome schools.

The Male High School design, one of Henry's first, is particularly significant because of its direct historical references. The portal at Male, the most spectacular of any in the public schools in Louisville, is directly lifted from architectural history books. Bramshill House, Hampshire (1605-1612) is the prototype for the portal, with only minimal changes. The rest of the design of Male was a reference from Charlton House, Greenwich (1607). The scale is changed, but the chamfered cornered bays, protruding end bays, quoining, banding and parapet design, all appear to be derived from Charlton House. These two historical references combine to create a balanced design and the most outstanding example of Neo-Jacobean design in the city. (See Section 7)

The schools designed by Henry between 1914 and 1918 were in a style similar to Male High School; that is, in the Neo-Jacobean style. The most outstanding examples are Brandeis Elementary, Belknap Elementary and the Shawnee group (elementary, junior and high schools). Brandeis and Belknap are particularly striking because the scale of the buildings more closely resemble the Jacobean houses from which their designs were derived. Brick and limestone are the materials used in all the designs, with variations occurring in the parapet designs, ornamental portals, and decorative brick and stone work. The floor plans are all very similar, with strong visual vertical and horizontal divisions, protruding end bays, and exquisite entries.



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Louisville Male

CONTINUATION SHEET High School ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

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Male High School is rich in history. Its educational impact on Louisville has contributed greatly to the city's growth. Few high schools in the Mid-west were as renowned as Male in the nineteenth century, having the esteem of granting University degrees because of its quality education. As rich as its educational history is, it is fitting that the building which houses such an institution also have outstanding merit. J. Earl Henry was a respected local architect of the first decades of the twentieth century. He seemed to interject into his school designs a learning device for the students. As in the Male design, a balanced Neo-Jacobean design, taken from historical references, offers a three dimensional text to students of architecture and the citizenry at large.

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Louisville Male High School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Milburn, W. S. "The Male High School of Louisville, Kentucky."  
Southern Association Quarterly, November 1937, pp. 1-5.

Whitley, H. F. & Whitley, E. R. Biographical Dictionary of American Architect.  
Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc. 1970.

Yarwood, Doreen, The Architecture of England. London: B. T. Batsford Ltd., 1963.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

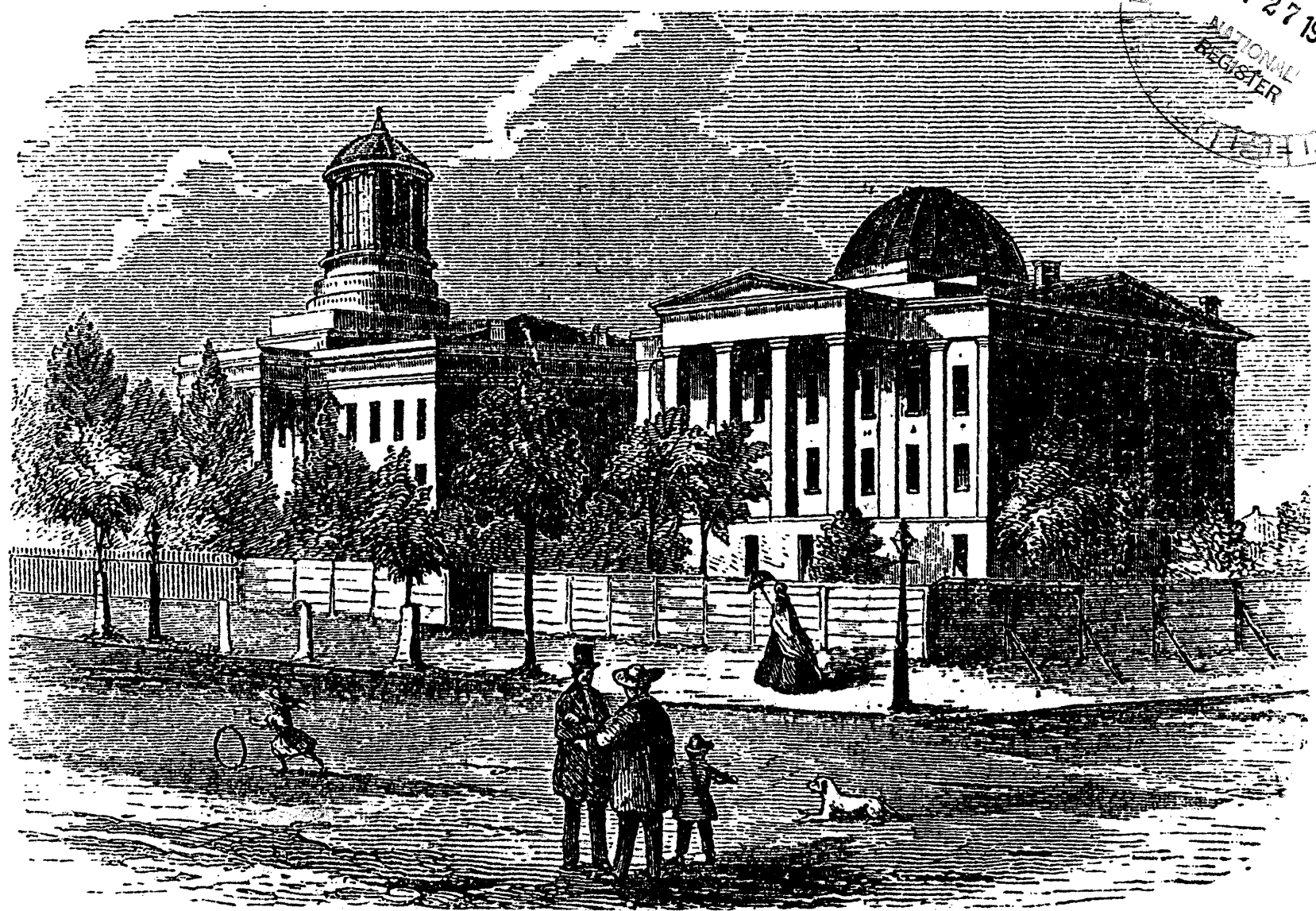
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Louisville Male  
CONTINUATION SHEET High School ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

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northwardly approximately 300 feet to Breckinridge Street, and running approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning, being lots 78, 79 and part of 77 in Block 30-F, City of Louisville, County of Jefferson, State of Kentucky.

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85.

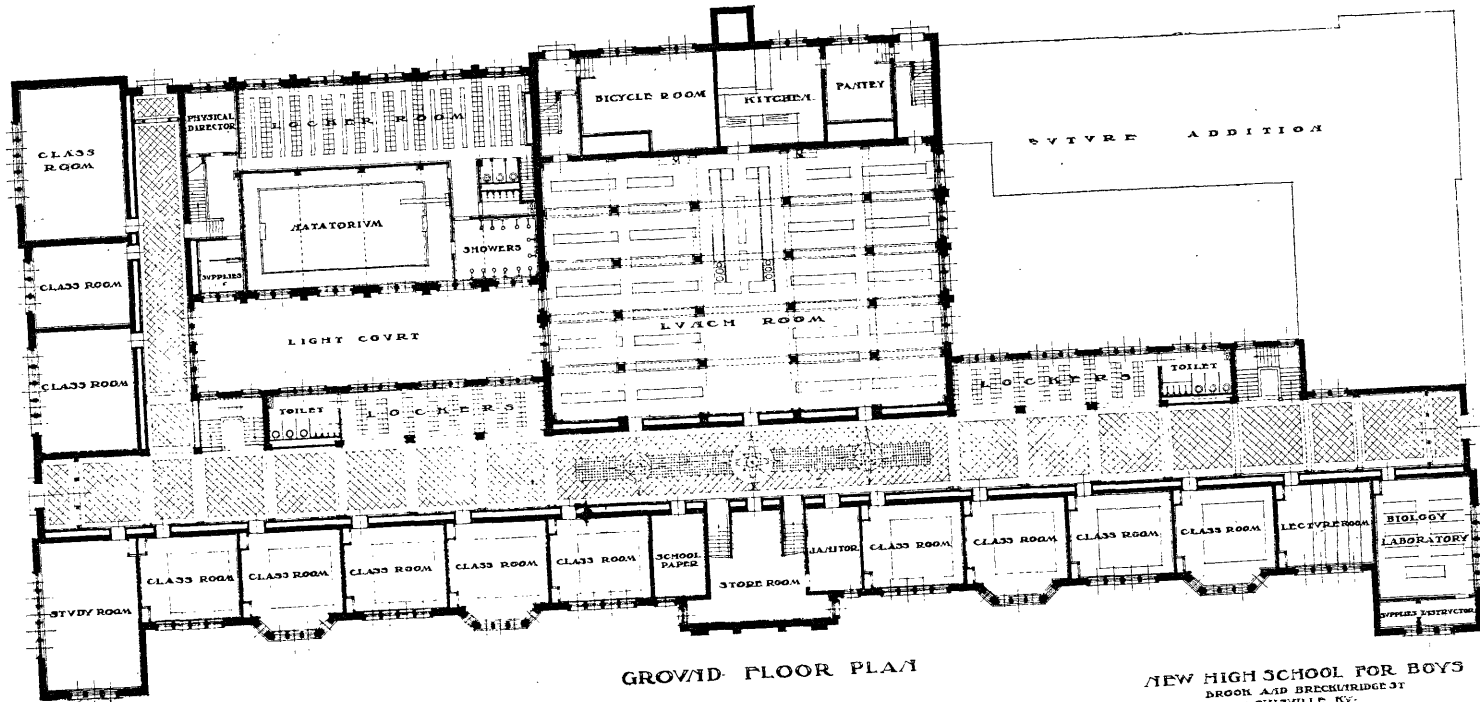
U. of L. was created in 1846 on University Square. John Stirewalt completed its Academic Building next to Medical School in 1849.

Male High School  
911 South Brook Street  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky  
Views of Louisville Since 1866,  
Samuel W. Thomas (ed), Louisville  
The Courier-Journal, 1971.

View 1.

Academic Building (1845), formerly  
Male High School.

APR 18 1979



GROUNDFLOOR PLAN

NEW HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS  
 BROOK AND BRECKENRIDGE ST  
 LOUISVILLE KY.  
 J. EARL HENRY ARCHITECT

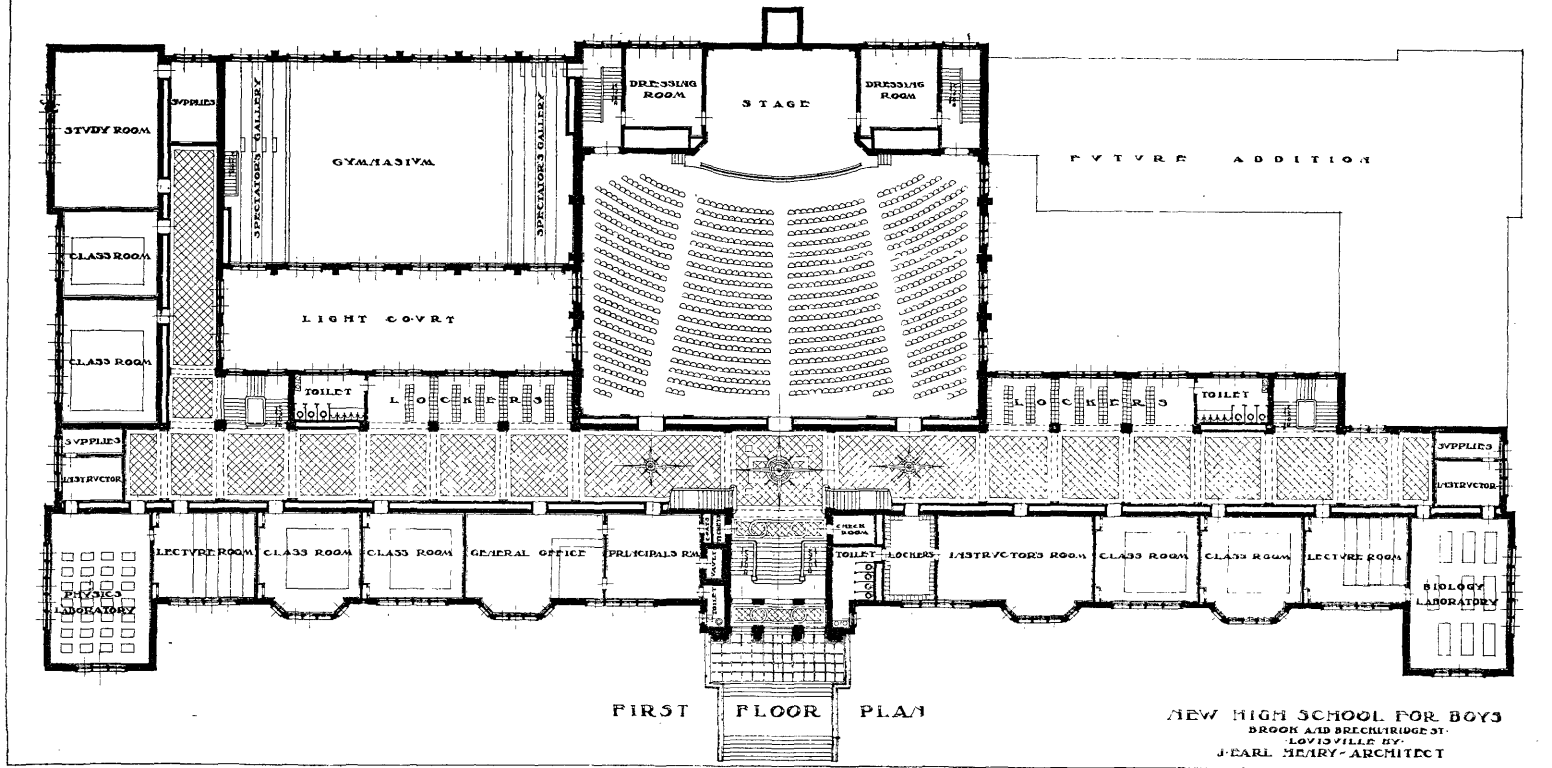
Male High School  
911 S. Brook St.  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

APR 18 1979

"New High School for Boys"  
(pamphlet) Filson Club  
Louisville, KY

Male High School  
911 S. Brook St.  
Louisville, KY  
View 4 - ground floor plan

APR 16 1979



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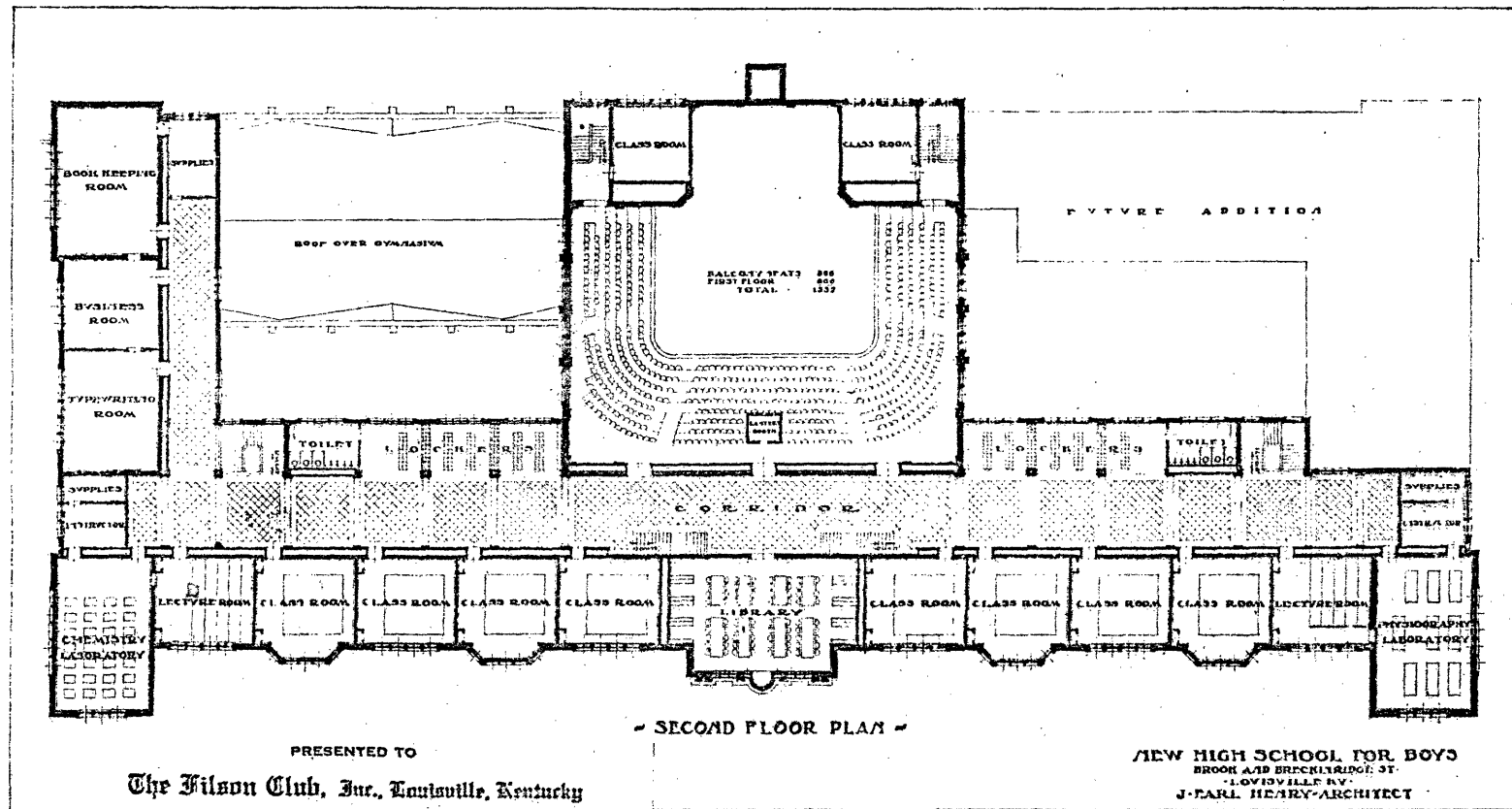


Male High School  
911 S. Brook St.  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

"New High School for Boys"  
(pamphlet) Filson Club  
Louisville, KY

Male High School APR 18 1979  
911 S. Brook St.  
Louisville, KY  
View 5 - first floor plan

APR 16 1979



- SECOND FLOOR PLAN -

PRESENTED TO  
**The Filson Club, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky**

**NEW HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS**  
BROOK AND BRECKINRIDGE ST.  
LOUISVILLE KY.  
J-FARL HEVLEY-ARCHITECT

By Mrs. Norvin E. & Miss Ruth C.  
Green, Louisville, Kentucky

Date January 10, 1962

Male High School  
911 S. Brook St.  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

APR 18 1979

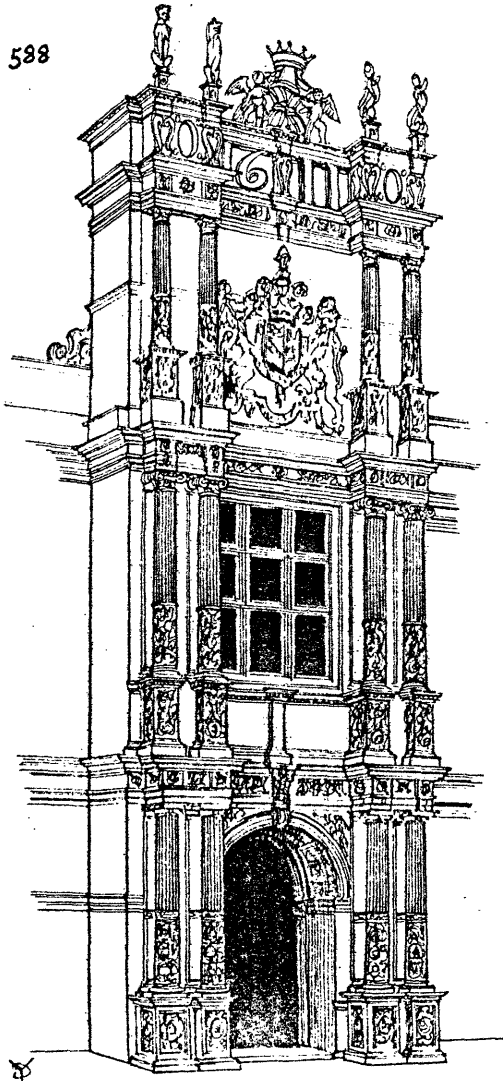
"New High School for Boys"  
(pamphlet) Filson Club  
Louisville, KY

Male High School  
911 S. Brook St.  
Louisville, KY  
View 6 - second floor plan

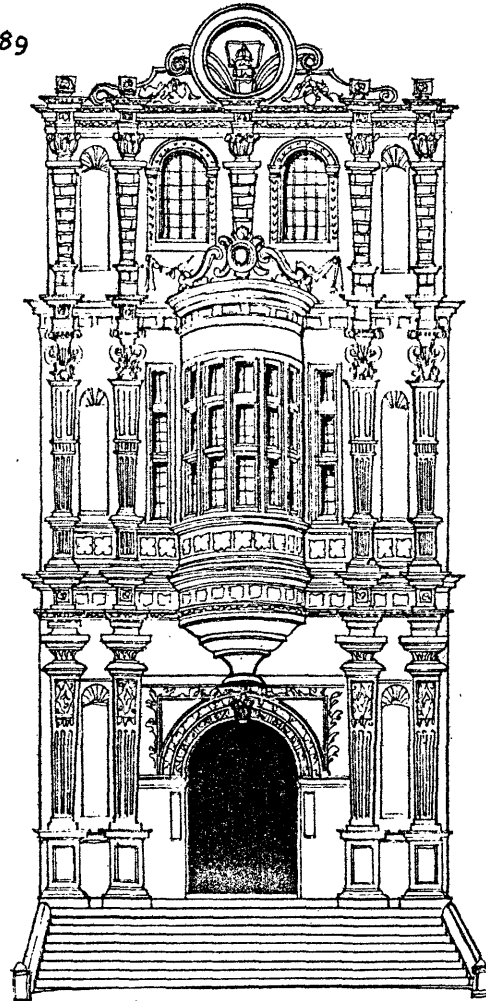
APR 10 1979

JACOBEBAN ENTRANCE PORCHES

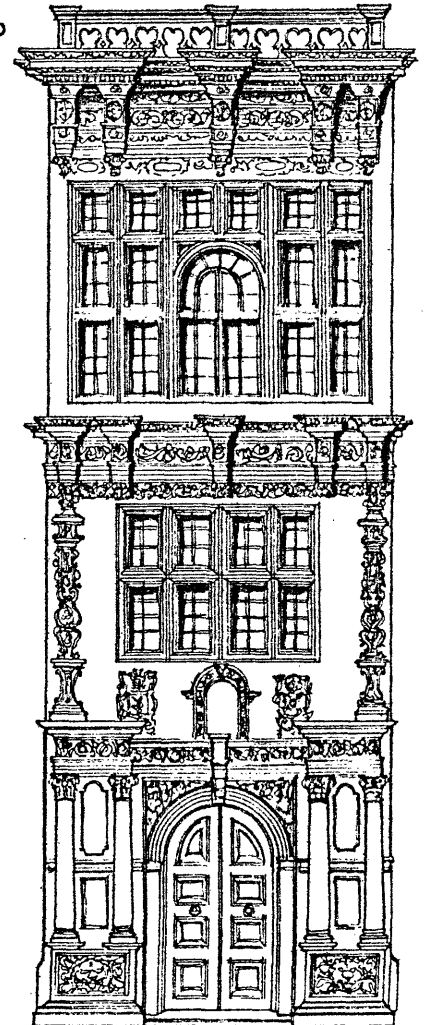
588



589



590



588 Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, 1611: entrance porch or frontispiece, south front. Stone 589 Bramshill House, Hampshire, 1630: main entrance, south west front 590 Charlton House, Greenwich, 1607: west front entrance

Male High School APR 18 1979  
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Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

APR 19 1979

Yarwood, Doreen,  
The Architecture of England  
London: B. T. Batsford Ltd, 1963  
View 9 - Bramshill House Portal