

56-1484

(Expires 5/31/2012)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name West High School

other names/site number West Middle School

name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 217 Genesee Street

N/A

not for publication

city or town Auburn

N/A

vicinity

state NY

code NY

county Cayuga

code 011

zip code 13021

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title Michael P. Lynch Deputy SHPO Date 19 June 2017

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 8/15/17

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: brick, stone, marble

steel

roof: asphalt

other:

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

West High School is located at 217 Genesee Street in the City of Auburn in Cayuga County, New York. It is situated one mile southwest of the city center at the northwest corner of Genesee and Pleasant Streets. Genesee Street is a primary thoroughfare through the city and runs roughly southwest to northeast. Residential neighborhoods surround the school in each direction and consist of housing stock dating primarily to the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Along the north and south sides of this portion of Genesee Street are several commercial and public buildings in a mix of ages and styles. The building itself faces south onto Genesee Street and is set back approximately seventy feet from the road and landscaped with grass and some shrubberies. Narrow asphalt parking lots are present on the north and south sides of the building while a large park planted with grass is present behind the building.

Built in 1938, the West High School was designed by Wallace P. Beardsley. The school is a courtyard plan building with a roughly square footprint and an open courtyard at the center. It sits on a site that slopes steeply from the east to the west so that it is two stories in height all elevations except the west elevation where it is three stories. Executed in a modest interpretation of the Art Deco style, the building is sparing in its appearance and is a steel structure with a red brick exterior laid in Flemish bond on all sides. Art Deco features and stonework details are present at the primary façade and around main entrances, while the side elevations are plain brick with simple belt courses. The façade (south elevation) features a tower with a clock and projecting west section with Art Deco detailing (cast stone window enframements, inset bas reliefs, stylized fluted pilasters) and a two-story classroom section to the east. Fenestration is regular and windows are paired in the classrooms with a number of single windows on the ground floor. The gymnasium section has large windows allowing natural illumination into the room. Windows appear to be double-hung replacements and some of the windows have infilled sections. On the interior, corridors are double loaded and retain the original configuration and original terrazzo floors and tile walls. Classrooms are intact, and many retain original features such as wood and glass cabinetry, doors and chalkboards. Until recently, the building functioned as a middle school but closed its doors in 2011 when the local school district consolidated buildings due to changes in enrollment. Both the interior and the exterior of the building are in very good condition and the building continues to play a significant role in communicating both the architectural and educational history of Auburn.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Narrative Description

Location and Setting:

Auburn is a small city in the Finger Lakes region of Central New York State and is the seat for Cayuga County. South of the city is Owasco Lake and to the west is Cayuga Lake and Seneca Falls, New York (fifteen miles). West Genesee Street connects with SR 90 near Cayuga Lake and once it (West Genesee) enters Auburn, to the east it is simply known as Genesee Street. The main north-to-south route through the city is SR 34 and beyond this intersection, Genesee becomes East Genesee Street. This intersection marks the city center with its commercial and government buildings. The southwest section where the school is located also contains Fort Hill Cemetery and the gravesite of Harriet Tubman. The area immediately surrounding West High School is largely residential (single family homes) with some small commercial and apartment buildings along West Genesee Street. Housing stock is primarily early-to-mid twentieth century. The school is set back from Genesee Street by a median strip with grass, trees and street lamps, creating a bus drop-off area along its front (south elevation).

Exterior:

West High School is a steel-frame structure clad in red brick laid in Flemish bond with cast stone and black marble accents. It is two stories in height except for the west side of the building that has a lower third story owing to the sloping grade of the site. Measuring approximately 250 feet wide by 225 feet deep, the school is roughly square in shape and has a central courtyard plan. Each side is composed of nine wide bays, with two sets of tall, paired windows in each bay. A projecting wing on the north elevation contains a main entry, and a second projecting wing on the east side of the building houses the school's auditorium. A short concrete base and water table wrap the building and cast stone coping is present at the roof level. Windows are paired six-over-six double-hung replacements, but all of the simple brick openings retain the original cast stone sill. Infill panels have been in used in a few locations to truncate the height of some of the original window openings.

South (primary) Elevation

The primary elevation is asymmetrically composed. At the center is a three-story Art Deco clock tower with a projecting three-bay Art Deco wing to the west and four simple brick bays extending flush to the east. The main entrance is located at the ground floor of the central clock tower and consists of a limestone-framed opening containing two pairs of non-historic metal doors. The upper floors of the tower feature alternating vertical bands of black marble and limestone at the center. Above is a limestone clock face with a brass dial and numbers. The clock tower terminates in a very slight pediment on each face. The wing at the east has a

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

wide central bay of limestone containing three two-story windows separated by shallow fluted pilasters and flanked by narrower brick bays. A frieze with a stylized circular motif runs above the windows. The three openings contain non-historic metal replacement windows with infill panels covering the center half of the units. Small cast stone bas-relief panels are located at the height of the windows in the plain brick bays to either side of the central windows. Four such bas relief panels are on the exterior: two on the south elevation and two at the east elevation entry. Together, they depict the educational pursuits offered at the school. On the south elevation, the west panel illustrates the manual trades and has a hammer, trowel, tape measure, and workbench. The east panel illustrates mechanical skills and shows interlocking gears, clamps, and a workbench. Above, a limestone beltcourse is capped by a fluted frieze and contains modern lettering in the center spelling *West Middle School*. The ghosted lines of the original *West High School* lettering are still visible behind the current lettering.

East Elevation

The east elevation is also asymmetrical. Six regular brick bays extend to the north, while, on the south side, a three-bay Art Deco wing projects forward two-bays in depth from the main mass of the building. The wing has a central limestone bay with a plain brick bay to either side. In the center bay are three non-historic metal entry doors with a black and white Art Deco tesserae frieze above stylistically, representing labor and education. The upper story has paired two-story windows, though the lower portion is covered by a blank infill panel. Framing the center bay are fluted limestone pilasters with a simple stylized capital. Similar to the front elevation, the bays to either side each have a small, cast stone, bas-relief panel in the center of the upper story. The south panel illustrates the liberal arts and has a painter's palette, a globe, a harp, and a book with a torch along the seam. The north panel illustrates the sciences and has a microscope, chemistry equipment, a mortar and pestle and a scale. To the north, the regular bays are largely identical. Only the northernmost bay is different and has a group of three, non-historic, metal entry doors at the ground level and a single six-over-six window above them lighting an interior stair.

West Elevation

The nine-bay west elevation is simply composed and executed in brick with cast stone belt courses. Each bay has a first floor and a lower floor with a second floor present in the third through eighth bays from the north. An entry to the building is present near the center of the lower floor, at the fourth bay from the north, and contains a simple masonry opening with a pair of non-historic metal doors. Fenestration is even and consists of paired double-hung replacement windows.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Rear (north) Elevation

The rear elevation is somewhat irregular. A six-bay portion to the east is three-stories in height, owing to the grading. The remaining three bays are only two stories in height. At the ground floor, the three western bays project three-bays in depth from the main mass of the building. The windows across the rear elevation are fairly regularly spaced; however, they vary in configuration between taller and shorter six-over-six windows, and single, doubled, or quadrupled. In the first bay of the second story there is a ramping walkway leading to triple modern metal entry doors with panel transoms. In the third story, the third-to-sixth bays are recessed eight-feet in depth. The large tripled and quadrupled windows are covered in blank panels.

Interior:

The interior of the school remains largely intact since its original construction. Even though some updates were made to the classrooms and to the larger spaces, the building retains a great deal of its original character and details. On the two main levels, the floorplan of the building consists of a U-shaped, double-loaded corridor surrounding an open courtyard and two-story gymnasium at the center. The lower ground floor of the building has a double-loaded corridor on the west side where the exterior grade is much lower, with a mix of uses at the center and mechanical and storage space occupying the remainder of the floor area to the east. At the first floor, the primary entry to the building and main lobby are present at the center of the south wall and connect to the circulation corridors. Classrooms are arranged along the perimeter walls at each floor, with offices, bathrooms, and locker rooms along the courtyard walls and flanking the gymnasium. Four main public spaces are present in the building: the cafeteria, the gymnasium, the auditorium, and the library. The cafeteria is located at the ground floor, north of the central courtyard. The gymnasium and auditorium are both two stories in height and accessed at the first floor level. The gymnasium is north of the central courtyard and the auditorium occupies the projecting south wing just west of center along the south wall. The library is located at the second floor in the projecting east wing. Staircases serving the building are located at the two northern corners, the southeast corner, and the center of the west courtyard wall; a fifth stair in the southwest corner only accesses the ground floor.

Primary Public Areas

The cafeteria on the ground floor is a large open space with square support columns at regular intervals. It retains its original terrazzo flooring and beige-colored, glazed ceramic-tile walls. Above is a non-historic dropped acoustic tile ceiling. The original double-height gymnasium space on the first floor is similarly modest.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

It has a hardwood sports floor with walls clad in the same beige glazed brick. The ceiling overhead is acoustic tile. Both the cafeteria and gymnasium have large windows along the northern wall.

In the school's original auditorium, three twelve-foot windows on the south wall light the interior. The lower six feet of the walls retain their original finished wood paneling, as does the curved base of the stage apron. Above the paneling, the room is articulated with tall, shallow pilasters on the north, east, and south sides of the room capped by crown molding and a deep cove at the ceiling. Modern acoustic material is present between each of the pilasters, obscuring the original wall material behind. On the west wall, the proscenium arch consists of fluted Art Deco pilasters with a simple base and capital that form the rounded corners of the stage and frame the proscenium. The auditorium ceiling has a large inset panel clad with acoustic ceiling tiles and the floors have modern carpeting over concrete. The current seating dates to the 1990s and is composed of non-historic folding theater-style chairs.

The school's library space was significantly remodeled and no longer retains any historic features. It is largely open to the corridor on the south wall and is lit by large banks of windows on the north wall. The finishes consist of a carpeted floor with a dropped acoustic tile ceiling and modern drywall at the walls.

The primary entry lobby to the school is located at the center of the south elevation and is the most highly finished space inside of the building. The original terrazzo floor features a colored floor mural depicting the municipalities of Cayuga County in bright colors with the surrounding counties offset in more subdued hues. The lower three-quarters of the walls are clad in an olive green marble with a dark red marble trim while the upper portion of the walls is the original plaster with a simple crown molding. Inset into the walls are several of the original brass ventilation grilles as well as a bronze plaque containing dedication information, including the architect, builder, funding sources, and local politicians. Modern acoustic tiles are present on the ceiling above.

Circulation and Classrooms

Throughout the school, the hallways on each floor have an original terrazzo floor with a terrazzo base and beige-colored, glazed ceramic tile cladding the lower six feet of the walls. The upper portion of the walls is the original plaster with later dropped acoustic tile at the ceiling. Recesses in the hallway walls contain metal lockers, some of which are original to the school though many are recent replacements. Each of the staircases in the school is original and has a cast-iron structure with cast-iron newel posts and terrazzo treads. The walls in the staircases are similar to those in the hallway with the same ceramic tile in the lower portion and original plaster in the upper portion.

The home economics and manual trades classrooms are located at the ground floor. The manual trades classrooms are much larger and longer than the classrooms of the upper floors due to the need to provide

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

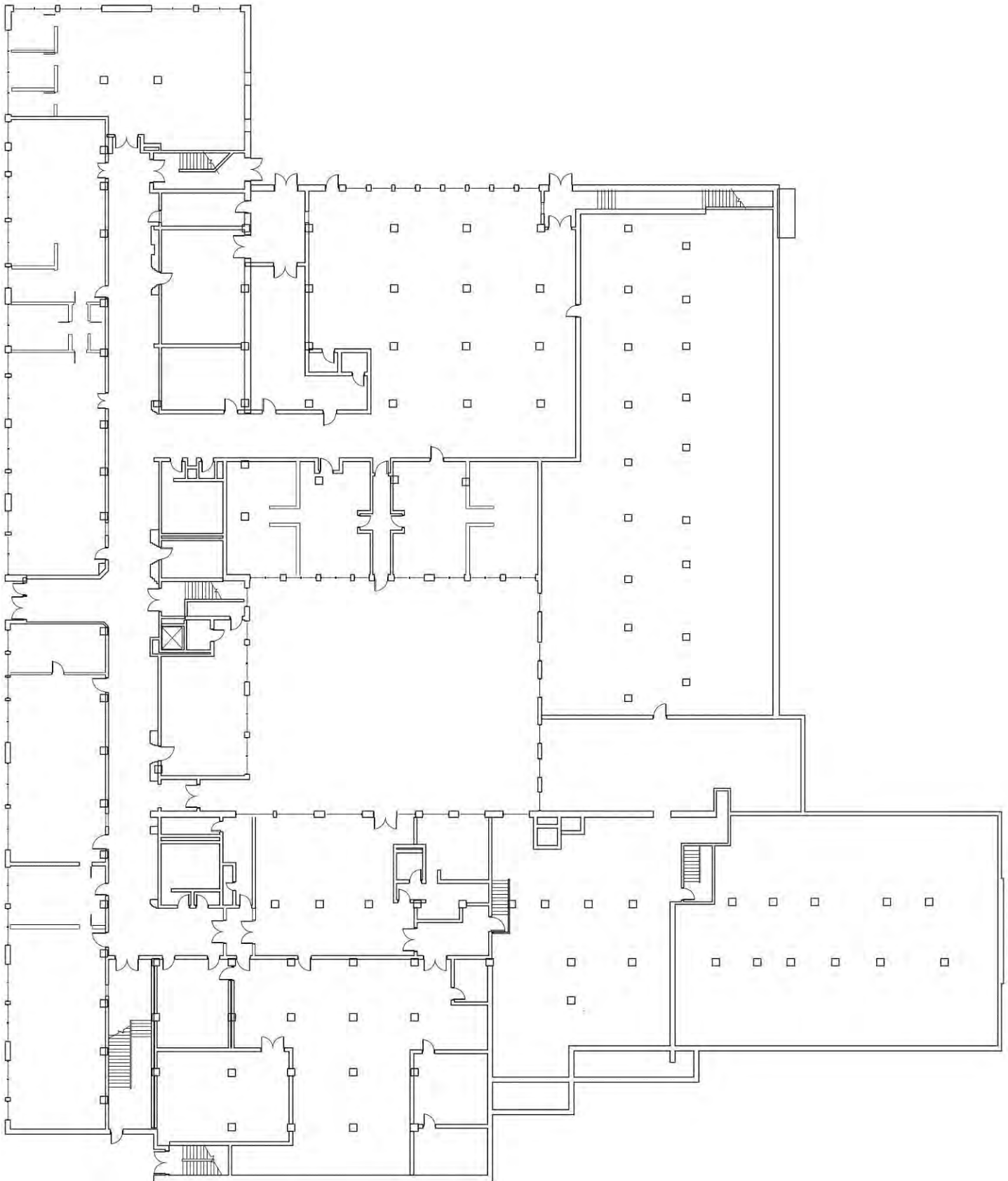
space for work tables and equipment used by students. Some of the home economics spaces retain built-in counters with sections for typewriters and sewing machines. Most of the classrooms at this level have walls with ceramic tiling in the lower portion and plaster above, similar to elsewhere in the school. Some have original hardwood or terra cotta tiled floors, and several classrooms have original chalkboards with surrounding millwork. Remaining finishes are non-historic vinyl tile flooring, dropped acoustic tile ceilings, and gypsum board walls.

The classrooms on the first and second floors are each lit by a large bank of windows along one wall. All of the classrooms have original window and door casings, and some retain original millwork around the chalkboards and wood built-in units. In general, the classroom finishes consist of vinyl tile or carpeted floors with dropped acoustic tile ceilings and gypsum walls. All of the doors are non-original and have a glazed upper half with a flush panel below. A small number of the classrooms are science labs. These rooms are similar to the others, but have original, red terra cotta tile floors and retain full-length wood, built-in wall units with glazed upper cabinets, solid wood drawers below, and original rolling chalkboards.

Despite updates and some modern finishes added over the years, West High School is an excellent example of an early twentieth century school building with an intact floorplan and numerous character defining details still present. It is also an especially fine example of a public works project, manifesting the popular Art Deco style on prominent elevations, the economy of the Depression era on secondary elevations, and the craftsmanship and attention to detail on the interior typical of early twentieth-century buildings. For these reasons, the building retains a high degree of integrity in terms of design, setting, form, character, materials, and craftsmanship.

West High School
Name of Property

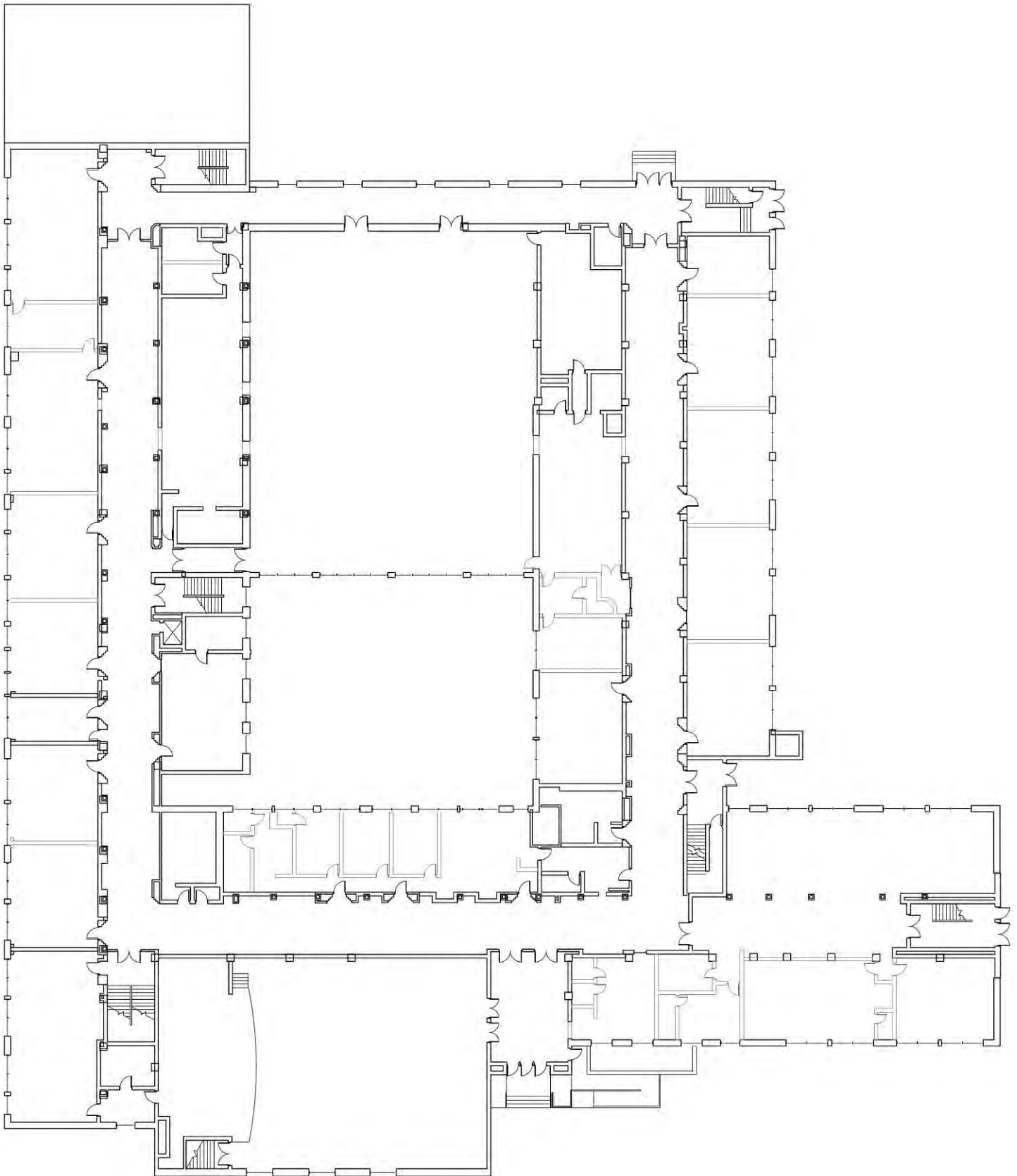
Cayuga County, NY
County and State



Ground Floor Plan

West High School
Name of Property

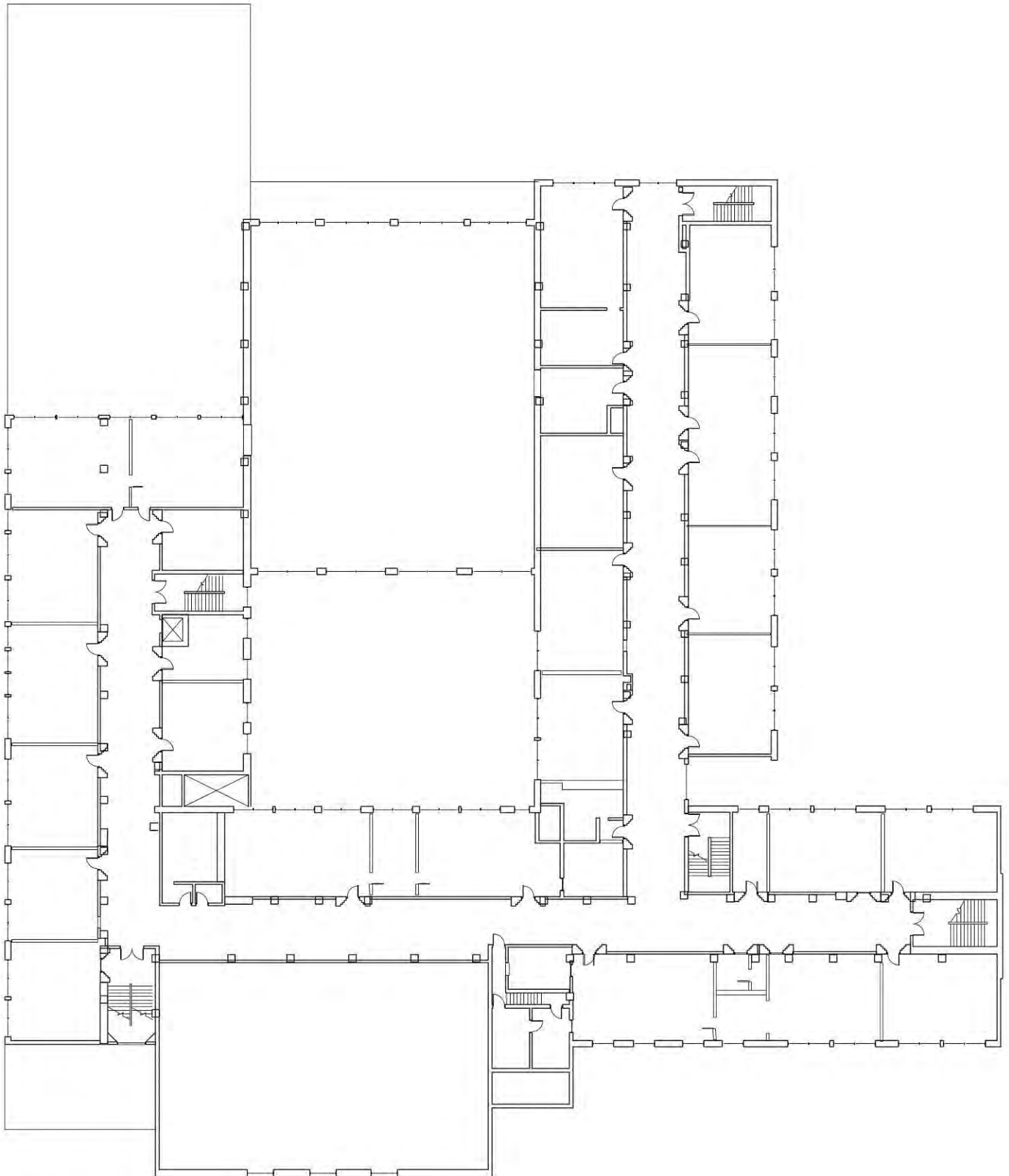
Cayuga County, NY
County and State



First Floor Plan

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State



Second Floor Plan

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
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

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1938-1945

Significant Dates

1938, 1945

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wallace P. Beardsley, Sr.

William E. Bouley & Company

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for West High School begins with the date of construction (1938) and ends with 1945, when its association with the VEND program coincided with the end of WWII. The school was associated with the civic building program that was a response to the Great Depression and the Vocational Educational for National Defense (VEND) program during the 1940s.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

West High School in Auburn, Cayuga County, New York, is significant under Criterion A in the area of education as being a high school with its initial primary focus on vocational education, a relatively new direction for local school districts in the early-to-mid twentieth century. West High School differed from more traditional schools by emphasizing vocational training for students planning to enter the industrial workforce, and the school's design reflected this difference by including workshop style classrooms for practical, task oriented training. This was the first successful vocational education program in the district, resulting in West High School's participation in the federal Vocational Education for National Defense (VEND) program during World War II. The school was selected as a host site for VEND training of needed defense workers through adult education classes, much of it done after normal school hours. The building is also significant under Criterion C the area of architecture as an example of a public works funded school building that followed the best construction practices mandated by New York State. Constructed in 1938, it was part of the Auburn School Board's plan to address local educational infrastructure needs by taking advantage of federal funding through the Public Works Administration to facilitate a building campaign. The Public Works Administration, a New Deal Program created in 1933, funded over 3,000 schools across the country and covered 45 percent of the cost of constructing West High School. The high school was one of three planned schools for Auburn to address the issue of overcrowding, outdated facilities and provide adequate spatial needs for a district-wide revised curriculum. The building was designed by local architect Wallace P. Beardsley, Sr., who designed a number of schools and other civic projects in the region. Beardsley's design for West High School provided classroom spaces with adequate light, ventilation, efficient circulation and fireproof construction that were critically important with the inclusion of vocational training school spaces. Beardsley used steel frame construction with a fireproof brick shell and, to be cost effective, limited stone decoration. Interior spaces included terrazzo floors, tiled surfaces and limited use of wood. As a late Art Deco building, the simplified style allowed Beardsley to make maximum use of window space while limiting its decorative features to a clock tower, full-height stone window surrounds in the auditorium wing and decorative bas reliefs on the public portions of the exterior that depicted education, the arts and industry. The school remained largely unaltered, even when it became a middle school in 1970 after a new high school opened.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Brief Historical Context: Auburn, New York

Following the American Revolution, movement westward through the new United States of America led to central portions of New York State being settled by veterans in an area known as the Military Tract. After

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

1789, former soldiers could obtain land in lieu of back pay through a warrant, granting 600 acres to privates and more land to officers. What became the City of Auburn was part of the Military Tract, which was first settled by Captain John Hardenburgh, a veteran who took part in the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign of 1778 against the Iroquois in central and western New York. Many of these veterans recalled the fertile lands and returned to the area, including Hardenburgh, who settled on a farm near the Owasco Outlet in 1793 and built a mill. The waterway became a key source of power for local millers and there were seventeen mills in the settlement of Hardenburgh's Corners (Auburn) by 1810. With abundant mills, fertile soil, and fishing opportunities around Owasco Lake, Auburn quickly attracted settlers and the county seat was shifted from Aurora to the flourishing settlement in 1805.¹ With the move, the settlement of Hardenburgh's Corners was officially renamed Auburn, which later became a village (in 1815) and was chartered as a city in 1848.

In 1816, the village became the site for Auburn State Prison (now the Auburn Correctional Facility), the second prison built in New York State. The prison was critical for Auburn's growth, as unpaid convict labor gave the village a vehicle to grow and prosper throughout its first half-century. Prison labor and waterpower facilitated Auburn's earliest period of prosperity, and it became the second largest village west of the Hudson River after Utica. The depression of 1837 slowed Auburn's growth, but the opening of two railroads in the following five years facilitated an economic revival. The Auburn and Syracuse Railroad opened in 1838 and the Auburn and Rochester Railroad followed in 1841.

Auburn continued to strengthen its role in the region in the third quarter of the nineteenth century largely due to its growing industrial base that continued to benefit from waterpower and the increasing construction of transportation networks across the state. During the Civil War, Auburn saw the establishment of ten major industries that produced materials ranging from agricultural equipment to textiles and carpets. Many of these businesses centered on the Owasco Outlet and helped drive Auburn's late nineteenth century population growth. Between 1858 and 1873 the population doubled from 9,000 to 18,000.² Some of the new industries indicated a diversified economy and included Fannings Brewery, Stevens Carriage Factory, Danforth Milling, Stevens & Sons Thrashing Machine Works, Reiley's Shoe Factory and the W. Sutcliffe Malt House & Brewery.³

¹ Mark Peckham, Margaret Bishop, and Jeff Slack, "South Street Area Historic District," *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Auburn, 1990, Section 8, 1.

² Ibid, Section 8, 3.

³ Sanborn Map Company, *Auburn, Cayuga County, New York*, 1886, Sheet 1.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Between 1875 and 1900, Auburn grew from a population of 18,000 to 35,000.⁴ Public services such as streetcars, electricity, water, and telephones helped the city to expand dramatically. Though New York outlawed prison labor in the 1880s, the loss of convict laborers was offset by an influx of immigrants, many from southern and eastern Europe, into Cayuga County. In 1920, Auburn's population peaked at 36,000; in the following years, the city's population remained stable before beginning a gradual decline in the 1960s. Prior to this, economic factors limited the city's growth, keeping it a small city. These factors included the Great Depression, changes related to the World Wars, and post-war shifts in industry that saw businesses consolidate their holdings and move away from Auburn.

History of Education in Auburn

Prior to the construction of West High School (1938), the city of Auburn provided educational opportunities for its citizens dating back to its founding in the late eighteenth century. The pattern of school building construction in Auburn reflected a combination of increasing population and state mandates with the first school in Auburn being a one room schoolhouse on North Street (opened in 1796) that was followed by a series of private and public schools. Auburn developed a public school system in the early nineteenth century, as the school age population increased, reflecting the general growth of the population. The first free public school opened in 1818 on Fulton Street and by 1850, the city ran a public school system with five schools that each served grades one through eight.⁵ The school locations reflected the steady growth of Auburn with the Fulton Street School serving District One, another on Genesee Street for District Two, and more schools on School Street (1828), North Street, and Seymour Street (1849) covering Districts Three, Four, and Five, respectively.

Concerned by the varying quality of the early schools, a number of the village's citizens formed the Auburn School Association in 1811 and raised funds to build an academy to provide literary and classical education to boys, be managed by trustees, and taught by qualified teachers. The academy opened in 1812 for male day and boarding students, and in 1825, it opened a separate section for female students. The Female Seminary eventually got its own building, located at Genesee and Washington Streets, where it operated from 1839 to 1849. Another private school was Mr. Brown's School for Young Ladies, which operated out of the city hall from 1854 until roughly 1885.⁶ The 1812 academy averaged 100 pupils each year until 1866, when it moved into new quarters. The academy was Auburn's most prestigious school, noted for the quality of its instructors

⁴ Henry Allen, *The Story of Auburn to 1935* (Auburn: Cayuga County Historical Society, 1955), 9.

⁵ *Auburn Sketches*, undated. Henry M. Allen Papers, Cayuga County Historical Society.

⁶ Allen, *Story of Auburn to 1935*, 4.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

and varied curriculum.⁷ After the Free School Act was passed in 1850, improvements in free public education led to increasing competition with the private schools. Decreasing enrollment required moving to a smaller building and the academy eventually closed in 1888.

In 1852 and 1867, New York State implemented a series of education laws that imposed mandatory attendance on school-age children and required municipalities to provide adequate educational facilities for the student population. The Auburn School District responded by opening new school buildings and, in 1867, relocated the high school program to the former academy building, which was renamed the Auburn Academic High School. The high school offered an expanded curriculum with additional courses in chemistry, physics, math, science, foreign languages, English, and history. In 1895, the high school had nearly four hundred students. In 1888, another high school opened on Garden Street, and the school was enlarged in 1908. Two more schools opened in 1910 on Lincoln and Seward Streets.

New York State began funding vocational public education programs in 1909. Small classes in industrial arts and business increased in popularity and districts were under pressure from state officials and local citizens to provide a more diverse curriculum.⁸ In 1917, the Smith-Hughes Act passed, providing federal aid to the states for the purpose of promoting vocational education for high school students. Auburn opened a vocational school on North Street that same year, but the school board closed it after six years due to low graduation rates.⁹ Despite the failure of the first vocational school, the Auburn School Board continued to offer some vocational courses, such as cabinet making and machinist work, but on a part-time basis. The district introduced new commercial courses around 1923.

In the 1930s, the Auburn School Board focused on updating secondary education facilities and formalizing the broader curriculum. In September of 1932, a new “modern” senior high school building opened, but by the end of the decade, the district required additional instructional space, due to the state’s increasing the age of compulsory attendance from 16 to 17. To alleviate the situation, the Auburn School Board reorganized secondary education into a system of three high schools, each with specialized curriculums. In 1938, West High School was opened for vocational education classes and the Junior High School was remodeled to provide business education, while the Senior High School maintained its college preparatory curriculum.

⁷ Ibid, 32.

⁸ James D. Folts, *History of the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department 1784-1996* (Albany: State Education Department, 1996), online at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/edocs/education/sedhist.htm#vea>.

⁹ “Vocational School to be Discontinued; More Teachers Quit,” *The Auburn Citizen Advertiser*, June 6, 1923, 5.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Vocational Education for National Defense (VEND) Program

As a result of implementing the vocational curriculum, West High School became part of the Vocational Education for National Defense (VEND) program in New York State between 1940-1945. Rooted in the 1940 Defense Training Act, the VEND program provided federal funding to public schools who utilized their facilities for vocational education that prepared workers for employment in defense oriented industries.¹⁰ By the end of World War II, the government had invested almost \$400,000,000 to train roughly 11,000,000 workers in 1,200 VEND programs in vocational and technical training schools across America.¹¹ In the fall of 1940, West High School trained fifty men in the program, with only Buffalo, Rochester, and New York City boasting of a larger enrollment.¹²

With millions of Americans going to work in defense industries, the federal government needed a program that could train personnel without diverting significant time and resources from factories.¹³ While courses overseen by the VEND Program did not fully train a factory worker, they shortened the period of on-the-job training workers required.¹⁴ Together, the United States Army and the National Office of Education created specialized training programs for twenty-nine trades and specialized occupations, such as radio operation and maintenance, needed in national defense facilities.¹⁵ The VEND program at West High School offered courses in aviation mechanics, machine operation, fabrication, naval repairs, machining parts, radio operations, radio theory, machine shop labor, aircraft construction, blueprint reading, auto mechanics, in-plant training, and research and development.¹⁶

The VEND program offered a convenient format for participating schools. To avoid interfering with regular school schedules, VEND courses took place after school hours, on the weekends, and during the summer months.¹⁷ At West High School, the radio operation courses ran on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.¹⁸ In addition to financial resources for hiring teachers and buying equipment, the program also provided lesson plans, visual aids, reading lists, and suggested teaching methods to participating schools and educators.¹⁹

¹⁰ Charles Dorn, *American Education, Democracy, and the Second World War* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007), 77.

¹¹ Educational Policies Commission, "What Can High Schools Do? Summaries of Significant Statements on Education and National Defense," *The High School Journal* 23, no. 6 (1940): 257; Arthur F. McClure, and James Riley Chrisman, and Perry Mock, *Education for Work: The Historical Evolution of Vocational and Distributive Education in America* (Cranbury: Associated University Presses, 1987), 92.

¹² "Controls Needed Educator Says at Dedication," *The Citizen Advertiser*, September 12, 1940, 2.

¹³ Melvin L. Barlow, "Coming of Age 1926-1976," *American Vocational Journal* 51, no. 5 (1976): 71.

¹⁴ Social Security Administration, "Vocational Training for Defense," 9-10.

¹⁵ Gordon C. Lee, "Government Pressures on the Schools during World War II," *History of Education Journal* 2, no. 3 (1951): 70.

¹⁶ "Controls Needed Educator Says at Dedication," *The Citizen Advertiser*, September 12, 1940, 2; "Board Drafts Schedules For Two Summer Schools," *The Citizen Advertiser*, June 20, 1944, 5.

¹⁷ Educational Policies Commission, "What Can High Schools Do? Summaries of Significant Statements on Education and National Defense," *The High School Journal* 23, no. 6 (1940): 258.

¹⁸ "Radio Class at Defense School Magnet," *The Citizen Advertiser*, September 6, 1941, 8.

¹⁹ Gordon Lee, "Government Pressures on the Schools during World War II," *History of Education Journal* 2, no. 3 (1951): 70.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

After World War II, West High School returned to its regular educational program, reaching 900 students in 1955. A publication from that year suggested that students spend their first year trying various programs, including carpentry, electricity, automobile mechanics, printing and domestic science, before specializing in one area in their last two years.²⁰ In evenings, the school hosted adult education classes in Americanization, art, industrial training and other subjects. In 1970, West High School was converted to a middle school and renamed West Middle School, serving students until 2011. At that point, state budget cuts and a drive to consolidate Auburn's schools led the city's school board to close West Middle School and leaving it vacant until a new use could be determined.²¹

Criterion C: Architecture

Funding for local public projects including school construction plummeted after the stock market crash in 1929 and the ensuing economic depression. While district expenditures per student increased prior to 1929, construction fell off even more than during World War I. In 1930 the capital outlay per pupil was \$14.44; in 1932 it had fallen to \$8.03, and in 1934 it had reached the low figure of \$2.24.²² Once in office, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Congress instituted a series of public works projects with the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, also known as the New Deal. Housed within the New Deal was the Public Works Administration (PWA), tasked with providing federal funding to state and local governments to help with public works such as hospitals, dams, asylums, prisons, schools, roads, and municipal buildings.²³ School districts were concerned with reversing the downward trend of per capita student expenditures that was tied to the need for new and updated facilities. A combination of new building expectations and Depression era impoverishment created a backlog of school building and remodeling campaigns in numerous communities, including Auburn. Between 1934 and 1938, PWA grants and loans combined with additional funds from the applicants raised the average expenditure to \$8.70 per year per pupil.²⁴ The PWA worked with school districts across New York, and in July 1938, Auburn was one of several New York State communities to receive PWA grants for schools.²⁵

²⁰ Henry Allen, *A Chronicle of Auburn from 1793 to 1955* (Auburn: Cayuga County Historical Society, 1955), 133.

²¹ Kelly Voll, "Board Votes to Close West Middle School," *The Auburn Citizen*, March 23, 2011. Online at http://auburnpub.com/news/local/board-votes-to-close-west-middle-school/article_24db4142-54ff-11e0-8445-001cc4c03286.html.

²² Ibid, 18.

²³ C.W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings Architecture Under the Public Works Administration 1933 to 1939* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1939), I. The 1933 National Industrial Recovery Act was renamed the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1935.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ "Action Follows School Board's Call for \$1,273,000," *Citizen Advertiser*, July 9, 1938, 6.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

In Auburn, overcrowding at the senior and junior high schools was severe. By 1938, teachers held classes in school basements and corridors, and at a City Council meeting in July of that year, Dr. Raymond F. Johnson, president of the board of education, explained, "There are 2,000 students of high school age crowded together in two buildings at the present time and we are not able adequately to satisfy their educational requirements."²⁶ School superintendent Dr. C.G. Hetherington stated that between 1937 and 1938, school enrollment increased by 600 pupils, due to the new state regulations that raised the compulsory school age. Lack of capacity forced the school board to re-examine its secondary schools and introduce a system of three high schools offering different academic paths. While students in seventh through ninth grades would attend schools nearest their home, each school had an identical curriculum. When proceeding to tenth grade, students could choose a school with a curriculum that was geared toward a college preparatory path, business/commercial education, or vocational education. The existing senior high school housed the college preparatory school; the junior high school would be converted into a commercial education facility, and a new building would contain the vocational school.

Since local funds alone were insufficient to implement this new system, the city eagerly pursued federal support through the PWA program, which provided over \$400,000 to the Auburn school district in 1938. The federal funds accounted for 45 percent of construction costs, while local bonds raised the balance of necessary capital. A small portion of the grant allowed Auburn to expand the existing Junior High School and convert it into a commercial education center, offering courses such as accounting, bookkeeping, and stenography to students interested in business. The vast majority of the PWA grant, however, was used to build a new vocational school for students pursuing technical trades with the two existing schools becoming East High School and Central High School.

One hallmark of the PWA program was local control of the design process and the Auburn School Board hired Auburn architect Wallace Beardsley to design the buildings. West High was built in 1938 at a cost of \$800,000 and had a capacity for approximately 1,000 students.²⁷ The city of Auburn contributed roughly \$435,000, while the PWA provided \$360,000, about forty-five percent of the total construction costs.²⁸ It was located on a large site along Genesee Street on the west side of the city, hence the name West High School. Beardsley's design for West High School took into account the sloping site, the need for economy and for providing a facility that met both the district's and the state's requirements.

²⁶ "Few Oppose Bond Issue For Schools," *Citizen Advertiser*, July 22, 1938, 5.

²⁷ Joe Sarnicola, "West Middle's Future a Mystery, Past Isn't," *The Citizen Advertiser*, November 27, 2013, 3.

²⁸ "Bouley, of Auburn, \$435,000 Bid for Technical High Low," *The Citizen Advertiser*, December 1, 1938, 16.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Wallace P. Beardsley (1898-1952) was a university trained architect, graduating from Cornell University with a B.S. in architecture in 1919. After completing his enlistment in the Naval Reserves, he moved to Auburn, where he joined the architecture firm of Samuel Hillger in 1925 (Hillger and Beardsley Architects).²⁹ Following Hillger's death in 1935, Beardsley maintained the practice as Wallace Beardsley Architects and developed a reputation for school design, especially after designing all of Auburn's high schools.³⁰ Beardsley was also a member and later a chair of the Auburn City Planning Commission.³¹ His sons joined the firm (James in 1948 and Wallace Jr. in 1949) and as Beardsley and Beardsley Architects, the firm completed hundreds of projects ranging from private homes to large-scale renovations on major civic buildings, including the Auburn Memorial Hospital (1973), the New York State Armory in Auburn (1958), and the Ogdensburg Housing Projects (1950).³²

Actual construction was done by William E. Bouley & Company, a local contractor known for a number of projects, including a plant for the Hammondsport Vintage Corporation in Penn Yan (1934), the renovation into a grocery store of the former Cayuga County National Bank at 43 Genesee Street in Auburn (1937), an addition to the Weedsport Central School (1939), a large addition (1940) onto the Auburn Polish Home (a community center at 197 State Street), and the U.S. Soil and Nutrition Laboratory at Cornell University (1961).³³ The firm was established by William E. Bouley in Auburn in 1932.³⁴ Originally from Quebec, he relocated to Auburn in 1924 and worked for the Fred T. Ley Construction Company. He also supervised several construction projects, including the Chrysler Building in New York City.³⁵

In a 1939 report, policies of the PWA stated that "the character of architecture, the materials to be used and the type of construction are left entirely to the private architects and engineers."³⁶ For West High School, Beardsley chose the reigning Art Deco style, following what the 1939 PWA report stated was "a tendency for some architects to adopt a more modern trend:"

Where they have used the "modern" style, the design sometimes shows the influence of the character and style evolved by various living European architects, but in general this is not the case. Most of the architects who have attempted to diverge from tradition seem to have attacked their problems from the point of view first of plan requirement, secondly of construction and thirdly of type of materials to be used, with the result that in the more successful building of this character a style has emerged...It is a fundamental principle of architecture that the best buildings are always those built throughout to comply with the structure best suited to the needs

²⁹ Beardsley Architects+Engineers, "History of Beardsley Architects + Engineers," online at <http://www.beardsley.com/history>.

³⁰ "Wallace Beardsley Dies Following Heart Attack," *The Citizen Advertiser*, May 19, 1952, 12.

³¹ "Master Street Plan Considered, Some Fears Expressed," *The Citizen Advertiser*, April 20, 1948, 9.

³² The firm is currently known as Beardsley Architects + Engineers, with offices in Auburn, Syracuse and Malone, New York.

³³ "Awarded Penn Yan Contract," *The Citizen Advertiser*, March 29, 1934, 8; "Loblaw Co. Takes Old Cayuga National Bank Building for New Store," *The Citizen Advertiser*, June 2, 1937, 5; "Bouley Promptly Begins Work on Weedsport Job," *The Citizen Advertiser*, April 4, 1939, 6; Polish Home Corner Stone Laying Tonight," *The Citizen Advertiser*, April 9, 1940, 7; "Bouley Gets Contract at Cornell," *The Citizen Advertiser*, October 25, 1961, 16.

³⁴ "Bouley, Construction Czar Dies after Long Illness," *The Citizen*, February 2, 1988, 4.

³⁵ Ibid. Bouley first worked for, but he also Bouley died in 1988 at the age of 97 after a long and successful building career

³⁶ Short and Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings*, 6.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

of the project. Excessive ornamentation is not only unnecessary, but in many cases definitely detracts from the aesthetic values of a building.³⁷

With its streamlined form, Beardsley's design was better suited to the construction cost concerns by limiting exterior decoration to the main facades with bas reliefs, cast stone details around large window groupings and contrasting stone beltcourses evenly spaced throughout the brick wall. He added a brick clock tower that became a decorative feature in itself with the use of contrasting stone and marble bands. Marble may have been an expensive material, but it and the colorful mosaic floor map near the main entrance appear to be the only extravagant expenditures in the building.

In addition to economy, the PWA report noted that "buildings designed with great simplicity and a very sparing use of ornament...are well and economically planned, with emphasis placed on proper light and ventilation and elimination of waste space, together with economy in cost."³⁸ The Art Deco style also lent itself well to federal and state mandated requirements for modern school construction. In the first three decades of the twentieth century, school buildings were increasingly regulated according to theories of sanitation and fire safety in response to events like tragic fires in Collinwood, Ohio, and Peabody, Massachusetts.³⁹ Building features such as fenestration, corridor layouts, and materials corresponded to the increased oversight and planning.

Beardsley's plan for West High School reflected these standards. Arranged around a central courtyard and gymnasium, classrooms located on the outside walls allow natural light to illuminate every room. While artificial lighting was common by late 1930s, the O-shaped school was a legacy of earlier twentieth century designs that maximized natural light.⁴⁰ In addition, the staircases in West High School were located at corners, reflecting fire safety tenets that emerged in the second decade of the twentieth century. Designers and school planning advocates promoted well-defined corridors and easy exit strategies in response to school fires where difficulty exiting the building was blamed for high fatality rates. Fire concerns also impacted the location of auditoriums, which New York State mandated in schools containing over eight classrooms.⁴¹ As public schools were imagined as civic places, auditoriums became public gathering spaces for the local community. Early auditoriums were often located on the third floor, but by the mid-1930s fire safety proponents changed the standard to locate auditoriums on the first floor, as seen in West High School's first floor auditorium accommodating 600 people.

³⁷ Ibid, II-III.

³⁸ Ibid, XIV.

³⁹ Suzanne Lichtenstein Warren, "The American School Building: 1890-1920" (master's thesis, Cornell University, 1985), 207.

⁴⁰ Ibid, 214.

⁴¹ Ibid, 223.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Along with school standardization according to regulations and standard practices, new directions in school curriculum also resulted in new trends of school design. In particular, the rise of vocational education and hands-on learning reshaped schools, as technical training required specialty equipment. As one PWA administrator asserted:

In the days of the all-study school, the planning was comparatively simple since all that was needed was a given number of classrooms under one roof. But in the last quarter century rapid changes in social and economic conditions have necessitated far reaching changes in the curriculum and program of both elementary and high schools. As has already been pointed out, these changes in curriculum are reflected in a demand for buildings that contain not only classrooms but auditoriums, gymnasiums, music rooms, art rooms of various types, science laboratories, libraries, shops, home economics, and sewing rooms. Moreover, the number of these rooms, their location, size, and the equipment depend upon the particular educational program carried out in the building.⁴²

Beardsley designed West High School as a vocational training school and the school contained spaces for courses in “cosmetology, auto mechanics, woodworking, electricity, drafting, and laboratory science.”⁴³ The science classrooms featured red sanitary tile floors and built-in closets, multiple chalkboards, and gas-fixture stations. In fact, the tile in many classrooms also reflected sanitation standards; architects promoted materials that were “durable and easy to clean.”⁴⁴ An entire classroom was dedicated to sewing machines on the ground floor, with built-in counter space for the sewing machines. The auto mechanics classrooms featured garage doors that opened to a parking lot at the rear of the building. The woodworking and shop classrooms had tile walls and hardwood floors.

“The P.W.A. has been a lifesaver for the schools” opened the chapter on schools in the 1939 PWA report.⁴⁵ Design standards and changing curriculums and government funding provided the impetus for many school districts across the country to update or build new facilities. The 1939 report stated that the downward trend in student expenditure was reversed through the PWA program and that between 1934 and 1938, a total of \$113,115,766 in grants and loans were for school construction with 47 percent being made to districts in small cities like Auburn.⁴⁶ WPA funding was crucial for enabling the Auburn School Board to move forward with its plans, and William Beardsley’s design for West High School reflected trends of school standardization and vocational education. The PWA was critical in allowing districts such as Auburn to realize the community’s desire to see students attend modernized schools and learning skills applicable to the twentieth century. The funds provided by the PWA were integral to shaping America’s education system in the twentieth century and

⁴² Short and Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings*, XX.

⁴³ Sarnicola, “West Middle’s Future a Mystery, Past Isn’t,” *The Citizen Advertiser*. November 27, 2013, 3.

⁴⁴ “Warren,” “The American School Building,” 135.

⁴⁵ Short and Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings*, XVIII.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

pushing to completion a program of modernization, which had been in motion since the first years of the twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"Action Follows School Board's Call for \$1,273,000." *The Auburn Citizen*, July 9, 1938, 6.

Allen, Henry. *The Story of Auburn to 1935*. Auburn: Cayuga County Historical Society, 1955.

Auburn Sketches, undated. *Henry M. Allen Papers*, Cayuga County Historical Society.

Barlow, Melvin L. "Coming of Age 1926-1976." *American Vocational Journal* 51, no. 5 (1976): 71.

"Bouley, of Auburn, \$435,000 Bid for Technical High Low." *The Citizen Advertiser*, December 1, 1938, 16.

Dorn, Charles. *American Education, Democracy, and the Second World War*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007.

Educational Policies Commission. "What Can High Schools Do? Summaries of Significant Statements on Education and National Defense." *The High School Journal* 23, no. 6 (1940): 257.

"Few Oppose Bond Issue for Schools." *The Auburn Citizen*, July 22, 1938, 5.

Folts, James D. *History of the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department 1784-1996*. Albany: State Education Department, 1996.

Lee, Gordon C. "Government Pressures on the Schools during World War II." *History of Education Journal* 2, no. 3 (1951): 70.

Peckham, Mark, Margaret Bishop, and Jeff Slack. "South Street Area Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Auburn, 1990.

Sanborn Map Company, *Auburn, Cayuga County, New York*, 1886.

Short, C.W. and R. Stanley-Brown. *Public Buildings Architecture Under the Public Works Administration 1933 to 1939*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1939.

Snow, Benjamin B. "Sketch of the Auburn Academy." *Collection of the Cayuga County Historical Society* 12 (1894): 28-32.

Sarnicola, Joe. "West Middle's Future a Mystery, Past Isn't." *The Citizen Advertiser*, November 27, 2013, 3.

"To the Class of 1911." *The Auburn Citizen*, June 19, 1911, 7.

"Vocational School to be Discontinued; More Teachers Quit." *The Auburn Citizen*, June 6, 1923, 5.

"Wallace Beardsley Dies Following Heart Attack." *The Citizen Advertiser*, May 19, 1952, 12.

Warren, Suzanne Lichtenstein. "The American School Building: 1890-1920." Master's thesis, Cornell University, 1985.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository: Preservation Studios, Buffalo NY

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ±6.36 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>371158</u> Easting	<u>4753880</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

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

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the same as for the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caitlin Moriarty, Ph.D., Matt Shoen, Kelsie Hoke, M.Arch
organization Preservation Studios date 3/8/17
street & number 60 Hedley Place telephone 716-725-6410
city or town Buffalo NY state zip code 14216
e-mail caitlin@preservationstudios.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 2000x3000 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: West High School

City or Vicinity: Auburn

County: Cayuga

State: New York

Photographer: Preservation Studios

Date Photographed: 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 0001 of 0018: West High School primary elevation, view looking north from West Genesee St.

Photo 0002 of 0018: Partial views of south and west elevations showing slope, looking northeast.

Photo 0003 of 0018: East elevation entrance, looking west.

Photo 0004 of 0018: North elevation, looking south.

Photo 0005 of 0018: East elevation, looking southeast.

Photo 0006 of 0018: Inner courtyard, view looking east.

Photo 0007 of 0018: Main Entrance foyer showing mosaic county map.

Photo 0008 of 0018: Second floor west corridor.

Photo 0009 of 0018: Classroom view showing built-in casework (second floor).

Photo 0010 of 0018: Science classroom showing original case work and sliding board frames.

Photo 0011 of 0018: General view of first floor classroom showing original doors, floors, board frames.

Photo 0012 of 0018: Ground floor classroom.

Photo 0013 of 0018: Ground level vocational classroom.

Photo 0014 of 0018: Interior of auditorium showing windows, wainscoting and non-historic seating.

Photo 0015 of 0018: Interior view of auditorium showing stage and proscenium.

Photo 0016 of 0018: Second Floor south classroom showing original tile floor, island and board frames.

Photo 0017 of 0018: Interior view of gymnasium.

Photo 0018 of 0018: View of ground level corridor.

Property Owner:

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

name Auburn Enlarged City School District

street & number 78 Thornton Ave

telephone N/A

city or town Auburn

state NY

zip code 13021

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

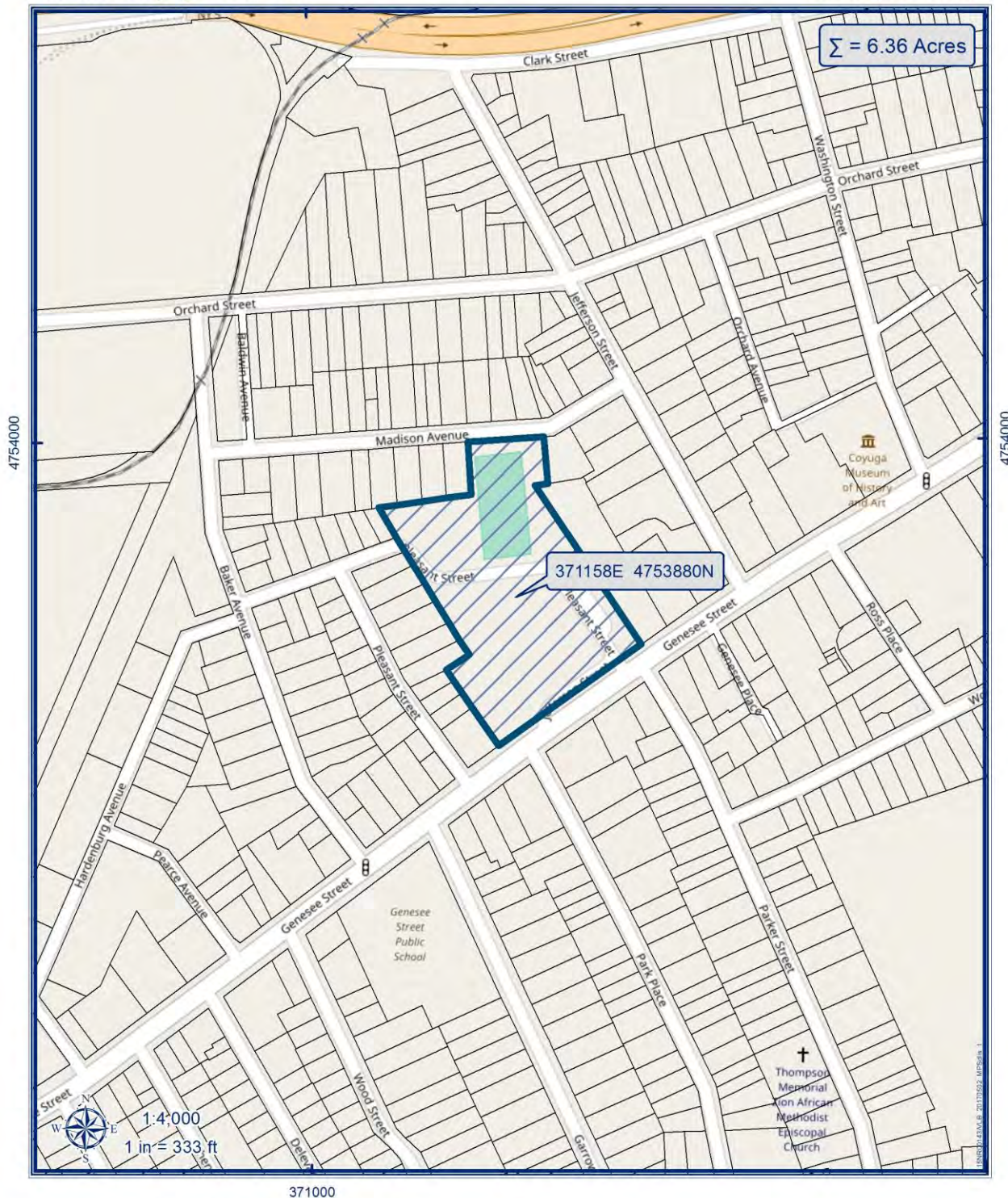
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

West High School
Auburn, Cayuga Co., NY

217 Genesee Street
Auburn, NY 13021



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 100 200 400 Feet



West High School



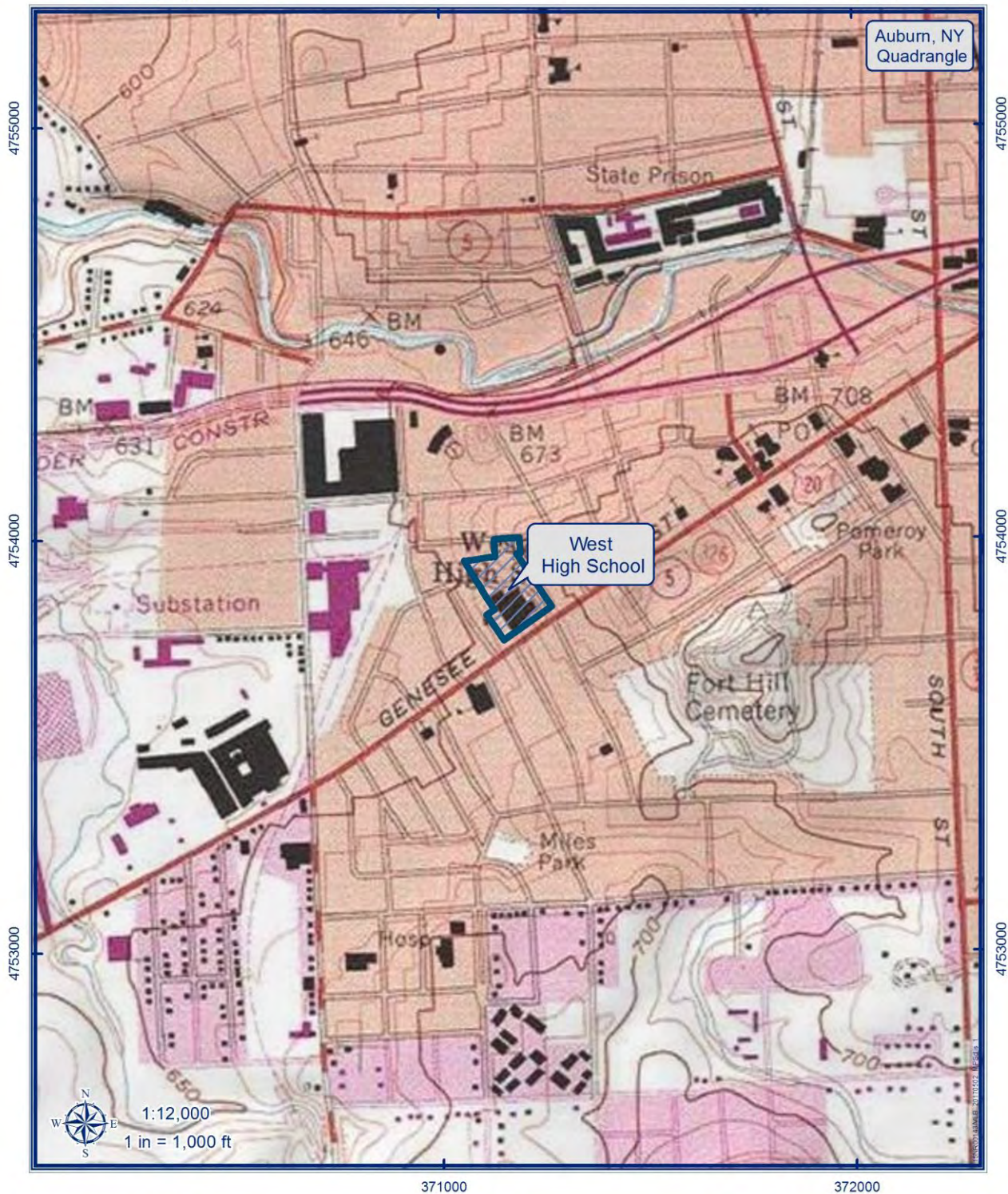
Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

West High School
Auburn, Cayuga Co., NY

217 Genesee Street
Auburn, NY 13021



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 310 620 1,240 Feet



West High School



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation



WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

NO PARKING
STREET
CLOSURE











JUST SAY YES TO SUCCESS









Homework

Class Objective	Lab Objective
Agenda	Agenda

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination	
Property Name:	West High School	
Multiple Name:		
State & County:	NEW YORK, Cayuga	

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
7/7/2017	8/2/2017	8/17/2017	8/21/2017	8/24/2017

Reference number:	SG100001484
Nominator:	State

Reason For Review:

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

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 8/18/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:	
-------------------------------	--

Recommendation/ Criteria	
-----------------------------	--

Reviewer	Alexis Abernathy	Discipline	Historian
Telephone	(202)354-2236	Date	

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

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

West High School
Name of Property

Cayuga County, NY
County and State

Certified Local Government Report Form
Review of National Register Nomination by Local Authority

Name of Certified Local Government (CLG): City of Auburn, New York

Name of Property under Review: West High School, 217 Genesee Street, Auburn NY 13021

Initiation:

- ☐ The nomination was submitted by the CLG to the New York State (NYS) Board for Historic Preservation with this form and request that the nomination be reviewed by NYS Board for Historic Preservation as soon as possible.
Date submitted to NYS Board for Historic Preservation: _____
- ☒ NYS Board for Historic Preservation submitted nomination to the CLG for review. The CLG has 60 days to review the nomination and return this report to NYS Board for Historic Preservation.
Date nomination was received by CLG: April, 19 2017

Date of Public Meeting in which Nomination was Reviewed by the CLG: Tuesday May 9, 2017

Number of Public attendees: 5

Review Basis:

Resource Type
☒ Historical
☒ Architectural
☐ Archeological

Criterion Selected on Nomination Form
☒ National Register Criterion A or B
☒ National Register Criterion C
☐ National Register Criterion D

Name of Commission Member (s) with Expertise in Area of Significance (if applicable):

Historian (when property meets Criterion A or B): Dr. Linda Frank, Cayuga County Historian

Architectural Historian/ Architect (for Criterion C): _____

Archaeologist (when property meets Criterion D): _____

Recommendation: (Attach any relevant documentation, such as commission reports, staff reports/ recommendation, public comments, and/ or meeting minutes).

- ☒ The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- ☐ The Commission recommends that the property or properties should not be listed in the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

Commission Chair or Representative: ☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved

Print Name: Christina J. Selvek, Staff to Auburn Historic Resources Review Board

Signature: *Christina J. Selvek* Date: 5/22/17

Chief Elected Official: ☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved

Print Name: Michael D. Quill, Mayor

Signature: *Michael D. Quill* Date: 22 MAY 2017



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



23 June 2017

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following nine nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

International Paper Administration Building and Time Office, Saratoga County
Potter Historic District, Monroe County
Second and Ostrander Historic District, Suffolk County
Charles and Anna Bates House, Suffolk County
Swan River Schoolhouse, Suffolk County
Congregation Ohab Zedek, New York County
George Sumner Kellogg House, Nassau County
West High School, Cayuga County
Morgan Dunne House (Ward Wellington Ward in Syracuse MPDF), Onondaga County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office