United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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

Phoenix Union High School Historic District

and/or common Phoenix Union High School

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| 2. | Loca | tior | 1 | | | | |
|--------|----------|------|--------|-----|-------|--|--|
| street | & number | .512 | E, ant | Van | Buren | | |

code

N/A_ not for publication

code

museum park

religious

_ scientific

private residence

transportation

<u>X</u> other:being vacated

012

greesional district

government

industrial

military

Maricopa

state 2

Phoenix

city, town

object

historic

Arizona Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---|--|--|
| Category X district | _X public | X occupied | agriculture | - | | |
| building(s) | private | unoccupied | commercial | - | | |
| structure | both | work in progress | <u> </u> | - | | |
| site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | entertainment | _ | | |

04

N/A vicinity of

yes: restricted yes: unrestricted

county

Owner of Property 4,

N/A in process

___ being considered

Phoenix Union High School District Administrative Office name 2526 East Osborn Road street & number

no

| city, to | wn Phoenix | Avicinity of | state | Arizona | |
|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| 5. | Location of | Legal Description | | | |
| courthe | ouse, registry of deeds, etc | . Maricopa County Recorder's Office | | | |
| street & | & number | 111 S. Third Avenue | | | |
| city, to | wn | Phoenix | state | Arizona | |
| 6. | Representa | tion in Existing Surveys | S | | |
| title | N/A | has this property been dete | ermined e | ligible? yes _ | <u>X no</u> |
| date | | federal | sta | ate county | _ loca |
| deposit | tory for survey records | N/A | | | |
| | | | | | |

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 1C/31/84



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city, town

7. Description

| Condition | | Check one | Che |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|
| X_ excellent | deteriorated | _X unaitered | _ X |
| <u> X </u> | ruins | _X altered | |
| fair | unexposed | | |
| | | | |

Check one _X__ original site ____ moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Phoenix Union High School Historic District encompasses approximately 18 acres of the campus as it existed in 1928. The district contains nine buildings: a stadium with associated track and football field, and eight other facilities which were designed for academic and community use and which represent major architectural trends of the early twentieth century in Arizona. Six buildings contribute to the definition, integrity and evolution of the historic district. A seventh is considered neutral. Although the latter building is less than 50 years old, it retains a high degree of integrity and is architecturally unique. The remaining two buildings are of recent construction and are considered to be intrusive at this time. However, they have been a major factor in the history and development of the school and may be considered as contributing properties at some future date. Some of the buildings have been remodeled internally but all are intact and in good condition. The district is located in a former residential area, bounded in part by two of the city's busiest streets, Van Buren and Seventh Streets. These arterials were a major factor in the initial selection of the site for a high school in 1897 and have significantly affected the subsequent development pattern of the area. This area is now the focus of urban redevelopment. Near the downtown center of Phoenix, the redevelopment area also incorporates the Phoenix Civic Center and remnants of earlier neighborhood development. Three National Register properties which have been restored or are currently being rehabilitated are close by: Heritage Square, The Rosson House, and Monroe School. The Phoenix Union High School Historic District supports the historical context of the restored properties and contributes to the integrity of redevelopment plans.

DISTRICT COMPONENTS

Of the nine district buildings, seven are considered significant to the historical and architectural development of the campus. One of these has been designated a neutral building. The attached map keys the buildings to the following discussion.

Buildings 1, 2 and 3 were designed and built in 1911-1912 in the style of Beaux Arts Classicism, for specific use as Domestic Arts and Sciences, Auditorium, and Science Hall. The Auditorium was rebuilt in 1929 with a replication of the original classical facade. In 1921, Building 5, designed in Italian Second Renaissance style, was built for the study of Liberal Arts.

The cast-in-place concrete stadium of Spanish Colonial Revival design was completed in late 1927 and seats more than 10,000 people. Unit A, on the east side of 7th Street, incorporates a 1929 Spanish Colonial Revival building built as the Phoenix College and partially burned in 1961. Unit A retains the exterior design elements of the 1929 building and has many of its interior features intact.

The Gymnasium, built of concrete in 1941, features a rare lamella wooden roof, the only such gymnasium roof known to exist in Arizona. Due to its age (41 years) and its exceptional architectural features, this building has been designated neutral; it possesses the potential of becoming a contributing building in time. Form No. 10-300# (Rev. 10-74)

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Intrusive buildings include Building 8 and the gym next to the stadium, both are less than 50 years of age. Building 8 is of contrasting materials and design, and its scale is disproportionate to the earlier buildings. Its contribution to the development and integrity of the campus cannot be assessed at this point due to its recent construction. The gym is a small temporary structure and does not contribute positively to the unity of the district.

Environmental elements contributing to the cohesiveness of the district include original sidewalks, lighting ffxtures, dedicatory class donations, and the palm trees lining the former through-campus route of Sixth Street.

Although the major buildings have been modified, many of the alterations, particularly those on the exterior, are reversible. Interior modifications conform to academic or administrative functions. Neither these alterations nor the mixture of building styles detracts from the impact of the campus as an educational entity. The integrity of this district lies in its coherence as a unit rather than in the qualities of its components.

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Phoenix Union High School is primarily located in the Churchill Addition in Phoenix, Arizona, in what was a predominately residential area until the 1940's. The Churchill Addition was a prominent early subdivision. The location of the new high school took advantage of the existing Churchill residence and the subdivision's potential for residential growth as well as the access provided by E. Van Buren Street, one of the city's main traffic arteries. The 1912 campus building phase emphasized the importance of Van Buren by facing all three new buildings onto the street. Later campus growth occurred to the northeast, following the direction of major residential development. The surrounding neighborhood presently includes modest residences, small businesses, vacant lots, the Phoenix Civic Center, a grouping of historic Phoenix homes (including the Rosson House which is listed on the National Register), and Monroe School (National Register), which is in the process of rehabilitation.

The historic district encompasses most of four city blocks and is partially bounded by several major streets. In form the district can be envisioned as a composite of two shapes: an ell on the southwest which was originally planned in 1912, and a rectangle on the northeast which embodies expansion during the 1920's. The ell is bounded by Van Buren on the south, Taylor on the north, Seventh Street on the east and on the west by a line which passes along the west face of Building 1, parallels the rear of Building 2 and then runs north beside Building 8 and the Gymnasium. The rectangular portion of the district is bounded by Fillmore, Seventh Street, the eastern edge of the Stadium track and a line passing through the southern limit of the Stadium track. The attached map illustrates these boundaries. Form No. 10-3008 . (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3 The historic district boundaries include two-thirds of the campus as it was at the

begining of the 1930's. A major feature which is no longer extant is Sixth Street. This roadway bisected the west portion of the campus, forming a wishbone shape in passing on either side of the Auditorium, and opened on East Van Buren in two places. Sixth Street was blocked to traffic for many years before being eliminated from the campus plan. The boundaries of the district also envelop a portion of the Salt River Valley Canal which transected the campus in a northeast to southwest direction and was filled in during the mid-1920's. Elimination of the canal encouraged development of the north portion of the campus.

A number of structures within the campus have been excluded from the historic district on the basis of either insufficient age or a lack of integrity. Although these buildings are not part of the historic district they have played a part in the history of the campus and will be discussed briefly in the next section as part of the overall developmental pattern.

DEVELOPMENTAL PATTERN

The availability of the Churchill residence--a large building readily adaptable as classrooms--was a major factor in the selection of Block 42 of the Churchill Addition as a high school location in 1897. Although an annex was added in 1899, the building was quickly outgrown. During the early 1900's, the idea of a campus plan rather than a single building for high school education attracted the interest of Phoenix parents and educators. In 1911-1912 three buildings were designed and built in the Neo-Classical Revival style popular at that time. The monumental nature of the architectural style employed in these first three buildings set the standard for subsequent infill of the campus.

The three new buildings faced busy East Van Buren Street with Sixth Street the artery leading through the central campus. Each building was designated for a specific educational purpose and the aggregate was intended to supply the maximum in educational benefits. The Domestic Arts and Sciences Building and Science Hall were the academic centers; the Churchill residence was designated the Commercial Building. The Auditorium became a focal point of community activity. A new heating plant built shortly after supplied heat and ventilation for all three new buildings.

School District expansion through land purchases continued from 1903 to 1912. Blocks 41, 43, and portions of 44 were added to the district, creating an L-shaped campus with room for building development.

With the next phase of construction, the campus expanded in size and became more defined in its boundaries. The Liberal Arts and Industrial Arts Buildings were both built in Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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1921 in differing architectural styles and on opposite sides of the campus. The Liberal Arts Building, in Italian Second Rennaissance style, faced 7th Street, while the Industrial Arts Building, in Spanish Colonial Revival style, faced 5th Street, replacing the original Manual Arts Building. The Heating Plant was expanded at this time to accommodate the new buildings. The Salt River Valley Canal was also filled in shortly after this. A girls' gymnasium, built of brick in 1920, was razed in the 1960s to make way for the buildings in complex No. 7.

The remainder of Block 44 was purchased in 1925, defining the campus as a square on the Southeast corner of the Churchill Addition. Portions of a subdivision on the east side of 7th Street were bought in 1925 and 1926 for future building expansion, following the direction of most of the residential development in the area. Building of the Phoenix Union High School Stadium on this land on the east side of 7th Street was completed in 1927. The Stadium, capable of seating 10,500 people, is also in Spanish Colonial Revival style. The Stadium was renamed Emery W. Montgomery Stadium in 1947, in honor of Montgomery's 22 years of service to Phoenix schools.

The Auditorium, seating 1400, was outgrown and was completely rebuilt in 1928-1929. Due to public sentiment, the Auditorium's main facade was to be retained as the main facade of the new building. A windstorm destroyed it, however, and the facade was rebuilt identical to the original. Seating in the new Auditorium was 2200. A library building built in 1929 along 7th Street was replaced with a classroom building in 1972. With its new Stadium and new Auditorium, the Phoenix Union High School campus was the center of community and family activity in Phoenix.

Building expansion halted until the Gymnasium was built at the corner of North 7th and Taylor Streets in 1941, completing and enclosing the campus square with buildings. The building was designed with a wood lamella roof and was built as a WPA project in Federal Moderne style. The building was designed to seat 3500 people at athletic events and 5000 for other events. Completion of the Gymnasium reinforced the campus' position as a community center.

A new Cafeteria and Home Economics Building were built in 1949 on the site of the old Churchill residence, which was razed. A fire in 1961 destroyed the second story of the Phoenix Jr. College building and it was remodeled into Unit A for use by night classes. The Vocational Tech Building replaced the girls' gymnasium in 1966 and the other buildings in complex 7 were added by the mid-1970's. Building 8 replaced the library in 1972. No major construction has occurred since the 1970s.

Although construction materials varied during the 60 years of campus construction, concrete was the predominant material used. The three 1912 buildings are of concrete and stucco with cast concrete columns and decorative elements, and metal cornices. The 1921 Industrial Arts Building is of reinforced concrete but the 1921 Liberal Arts Building is of hollow clay tile. Details on these buildings are also of concrete, either inset, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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engraved, or appliqued. Surface finish was originally cement plaster. Unit A and the Heating Plant are also of concrete and stucco. Both the Stadium and Gymnasium are of castin-place concrete with surfaces left unfinished except for paint. The Stadium design employs semi-circular arches for expression of style and the Gymnasium uses vertical fluting and glass block popular to its style. More recent buildings are of brick or combinations of brick and concrete. Frame buildings are non-existent on the campus.

Most campus buildings are either one or two stories in height. The Stadium is the only early building of more than two stories. Only Building No. 7 has more than two stories.

ARCHEOLOGY

Potential exists on the campus for discovering both prehistoric and historical archeological sites. The campus is located in an area of Phoenix recognized as rich in Hohokam remains. Although no prehistoric sites are recorded for the campus, historical research verifies the former location of a mound, now destroyed, on private property just south of the campus. In addition, recent archeological excavations to the south and east of the campus discovered numerous prehistoric sites, including pit houses, trash pits, and portions of canals. In view of the extensive building occurring on the grounds over the past 60 years, it is unlikely that a prehistoric site with integrity is present. However, future excavations may uncover material remains and the potential for discovering prehistoric sites exists.

Although much of the campus is paved over, the location of three historical archeological sites can be calculated from Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and are worthy of investigation. The site of the Churchill House appears to be partially beneath the present Cafeteria, but the majority of the site is probably located in the open area bounded by the Cafeteria, Home Economics Building and Building No. 1. The amount of disturbance caused by the razing of the residence and the building of the Cafeteria is unknown but it is possible that much of the original 9-foot basement and its fill has been preserved. The long-term (1898-1949) use of the building by students and the district suggests this site has potential for archeological investigation in terms of providing information about human behavior.

The second historic site with archeological potential is the former Salt River Valley Canal which transected the campus and was filled in during the 1920s. This important canal crossed the entire campus and should be accessible at selected areas. Location of the canal can be figured from Sanborn Maps. The canal fill has potential of yielding information important in the study of material culture.

The third historic site is the location of Cottonwood Court, a house just off 7th Street between Fillmore and the intersection of Taylor with Seventh Street, which served as the

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location of Phoenix College between 1925 and 1930. The building was demolished and the land is now vacant. Although the history of the house before and after the college occupation is not yet known, it was a prominent residence in the area and the site has the potential of yielding undisturbed archeological materials.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS

CONTINUATION SHEET

Physical Descriptions of each of the district buildings are included here, and are keyed to the attached map. Contributing buildings are described first followed by neutral and instrusive buildings.

Buildings Contributing to the Character of the District:

1. Building No. 1, Domestic Arts and Sciences. This symmetrical, flat-roofed building is rectangular in mass with the center portion inset, and is two stories high with a raised basement. Of all the buildings on the campus, this concrete and stucco building retains the most of the original exterior design. One of three buildings in the Beaux-Arts Classicism style, its main facade is characterized by a central projecting portico with two sets of paired columns with Corinthian caps supporting a pediment, and arched windows separated by pilasters. The columns rest on concrete platforms flanking the stairway. Cast iron light posts which originally were capped with clusters of five globe lights stand on the platform in front of each column pair. A water table and denticulate metal cornice and plain parapet enclose all four facades. Attic vents punctuate the frieze below the cornice. A flight of flared concrete steps leads to the central inset, a double-door entry with keystones. The two-light transom over the doors has been covered with modern concrete grill which replaces the original grill, and a leaf and rope design frames the doors. A canopy supported by garland and egg and dart decorated brackets overhangs the doors. Above the canopy, a raised, leaf-design decoration separates the rectangular windows. The metal pediment has a denticulate cornice and the parapet is plain. Wings on either side of the inset central entry are divided into three arched bays with windows. All windows in the building have been infilled with concrete block and aluminum frame sliding windows. Pilasters with Corinthian capitals separate the bays.

The east and west facades have five bays with arches separated by pilasters with simplified Corinthian capitals. The two bays at either end of each facade have arched windows on the second floor and rectangular windows on the first floor and basement. The north facade also has five bays with rectangular windows. A staircase and an addition are located on the west facade.

The building's interior has been extensively remodeled several times (1938, 1945, 1948, 1952); none of the original spatial plan remains. Suspended ceilings and asphalt tile flooring were added in 1938. The basement bookstore vault was installed in 1952. As originally designed, the building contained the principal's administration office and reception room on the first floor, school dining room and a kiln room, kitchen and laundry room in the basement, and domestic sciences laboratory rooms and classrooms in the remaining areas.

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Six skylights illuminated the upper story. Fireplaces with mantles were in the principal's office and living room of the domestic sciences laboratory. Original wood lockers and leaded glass wood cases have been removed.

Building No. 2, Auditorium. The Auditorium, a symmetrical, T-shaped, two-story 2. building in concrete stucco with raised main level and flat roof, is in Beaux Arts Classicism style. During the 1929 rebuilding of the Auditorium, the design of the original 1912 Classical facade was retained, while the interior design was Spanish Colonial Revival.

Approximately three-fourths of the long axis of the T is infilled with two wings, one on either side. The short axis of the T, which incorporates the main facade, is rectangular, with the major design elements wrapping around this wing, and is topped with a parapet. A water table surrounding the building is broken only by entries.

The facade is characterized by an inset three-bay entry, each bay separated by a pair of attached concrete columns with lonic capitals. Single columns with lonic capitals frame the inset entry. The columns rise from concrete stylobates to a frieze and denticulate metal cornice with egg and dart design which is continuous around the rectangular wing. Semi-circular arched openings springing from square pilasters with egg and dart design at the capital imposts frame the three sets of glass and woodframed double doors and original 5-light transoms. Space beneath the arches is infilled with concrete and faced with metal grill. Each entry is reached by a separate flight of steps separated by concrete platforms. Cast iron light posts shaped as Corinthian columns are similar to those in front of the Domestic Arts Building. The original clusters of five globe lights have been replaced.

The flanking portions of the rectangular front facade are identical. The three exposed corners of each end are faced with quoins. The front and side facades of the flanking portions are decorated with a raised cross-shaped geometric design with a smaller rectangular geometric design above. The smaller design is also repeated over each arched entry. Above the geometric designs on the front and end facades are attic vents infilled with a sunburst design in original concrete.

All windows on the wings of the long axis of the building and on the rear facade are infilled. A fire escape has been installed at the rear of the building and a large clock decorates the rear facade. A prominent feature of the landscape is a series of class donations in the form of tiled squares containing class years set into the concrete sidewalk in front of the Auditorium. Several palm trees originally lining Sixth Street, which encircled the Auditorium, are still present on the grounds. Pillars supporting iron light fixtures frame the entry to the campus in front of the Auditorium; these were donated by the classes of 1914 and 1915. W. F. Hall Co. poured the concrete for the original curved walks which are still intact.

The interior of the Auditorium retains many of its original features in the lobby and auditorium space. The lobby has five entrances: three sets of double doors in the front and one set of double doors on the east and west ends. Doors and transoms appear to b^{e}

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original. The lobby floor is covered with asbestos tile. Original wood moldings frame the lobby's barrel-arched ceiling. Wood floor moldings and two wood-framed glass showcase cabinets are also original. Ceiling lights in Spanish style are of bronze and appear original. Restroom stalls and radiators in the basement are original. Stairways at the east and west ends leading to the basement have original iron banisters, and handrail and stairways to the balcony at each end of the lobby have original wood banisters and handrails.

The auditorium retains its original oak inclined floor. A projection booth is at the center of the balcony. Square pillars support the balcony. Four side aisles and one center aisle lead to the stage; a wide cross aisle separates the seating under the balcony edge. Side aisles are covered with an arcade of piers and Corinthian columns. Semi-circular arches in the arcade are separated by Spanish style medallions. Small Spanish Colonial style balconies with balustrades cover vent grills. Backstage entries have original wood stairs and iron handrails and original wood doors. Plush and leather seats in iron frames are fastened to the floor by wood tracks. Remodeling in 1946 and 1948 removed upper level windows and modified the ceiling to accommodate changes in lighting and ventilating systems. Modifications have also been made to the stage.

3. Building No. 3, Science Building. The Beaux Arts Classicism Science Building is rectangular, two story with a raised basement, and has a flat roof. The central mass is recessed. The building is of concrete and stucco. Three rectangular bays in the central mass and three closed arched bays in the front facade of each of the end masses rise from a projecting water table. A simple band course over the bays continues around the building. Above the band course, attic vents with wood detailing break the frieze. A plain parapet and simple metal cornice wrap the building. Windows on the upper level are rectangular. Windows in the central mass are paired rectangular on the upper level and single rectangular on lower levels.

A metal denticular pediment supported by two pairs of attached columns with composite Tuscan capitals rises above the roofline over the central entry. This entry is reached by a wide, fan-shaped stairway flanked by concrete platforms providing the support for the stylobates of the paired columns. An original cast iron light stands on the platform in front of each pair of columns; the original clusters of five globe lights have been replaced.

All windows and the central entry are infilled with decorative concrete block. The west entry has been removed and infilled. In the early 1960's a stairway was added at the rear of the building.

The Science building interior has been extensively remodeled. Designed with lecture rooms, laboratories, and an astronomical observatory, none of the original spatial organization remains. Classrooms open into a central L-shaped hall. The original single concrete stairs and balustrade are intact.

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4. Building No. 5, Liberal Arts Building. This concrete frame with hollow clay tile and stucco building is U-shaped with wings at the north and south ends, has a raised basement, and is two stories high. Designed in Italian Second Renaissance style, it features a carved dedication in the frieze on the main (east) facade: DEDICATED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT TO THE STUDY OF LIBERAL ARTS. A raked water table surrounds the building and a plain parapet with cast concrete cornice in egg and dart motif surround the flat wood-frame roof.

The front facade has six bays of windows with an entry in a seventh center bay and a windowless bay on the wings at either end. Windows were originally in triplets in these bays; those in the basement were of glass block. All windows in the building have been infilled or partially infilled and replaced.

The central entry features art stone pilasters with lonic capitals and an egg and dart motif below the capitals. The casement for the double door entry is cast-in-place concrete with flower medallions. Over the door a hood with a denticulate cornice and a decorative fleur-de-lis pattern forms an arch. This entry is entirely infilled. Flared steps leading to the entry have been replaced with double steps.

On the north and south facades, groups of five windows in a three bay pattern separated by bays with single windows have been infilled or replaced with smaller windows. A door on the east facade has been widened.

Stairs on the west ends of both wings have been altered. Walls on the wings and interior of the U-shape on the west facades are undecorated and windows have been either replaced or infilled. The lower level of the building projects from the interior of the U to form a low flat-roofed addition.

The interior space has been remodeled and original classrooms removed. New classrooms have been partitioned off with ceilings lowered and light fixtures replaced. Ceilings in the central hallway have been lowered using acoustical tile to create space for air conditioning equipment. The original hard maple floors in the classrooms are now under tile. When built, all thresholds and base and wall strings on the stairways were of white Alaska marble; this marble is still in place on the stairways. The terrazzo steps on the double staircases and corridor floors have been covered but may be intact. These steps continue into the attic which is closed but the original 6 light/l panel wired glass door to the attic steps and original metal door to the attic space are in place. The lobby of the central entry has been converted to an office but the original terrazzo floor is visible.

The basement, originally used as the school cafeteria, now has a central hall flanked with rooms. Floors are of concrete.

5. Stadium. The Spanish Colonial Revival Stadium is built of cast-in-place concrete and is four stories high. An arcade with red-shingled roof and semi-circular arches extends the length of the top of the structure, ending at two turrets with octagonal drums. The

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Brackets buttress the arcade and sloping wall of the seating sections. Arches in the arcade are separated by pilasters. The arcade cornice is of cast-in-place concrete.

Entry to the stadium seats is through portals at each end leading to the tiered seating. The portals are of concrete with original wood roof framing visible; the pyramidal roofs are shingled. The north portal contains a plaque commemorating the dediction of the portals. Both portals are now closed off.

Capacity seating in the stadium is 10,500. Benches in the lower part of the stadium are wood with backs; upper seats are backless concrete. The stadium is wired for electric lights; original lights remain.

Most of the space beneath the stadium seats was occupied by classrooms, labs, and shops, and is now out of use. Entry to these areas is through doors in the west facade. Four segmental arched double metal door entries alternate with four rectangular double metal door entries. Transoms over the doors and spaces under the arches are infilled. Groupings of four steel casement windows with 12-light awning windows separate each entry. Three tiers of windows above the entries are infilled.

6. "A" Building. Unit A is an irregularly-shaped building composed of the first floor of the original concrete and stucco Phoenix College Building which partially burned in 1961 and a two-story brick addition to the east end of this building. Unit A was constructed using this remaining first floor and retaining exterior features of the original building. A water table at the first level and a denticulate parapet formed from the remains of the second story windows characterize the building.

Two entries are the most striking features of Unit A. The major entry faces North 7th Street. Original double doors have been replaced with metal doors and the transom is glassed in. Two pairs of twisted columns with Corinthian capitals rise from a low porch platform to a frieze decorated with medallions above the transom. A concrete shelf with small denticulate design tops the frieze and completes the entry. The south entry is also a replaced double door with infilled transom. Decorative appliques of vertically scalloped designs frame the doors. A horn o-plenty design fills the frieze over the entry.

All windows are steel casement and original to the building. All windows are grouped in sets of six or three; windows in each group are separated with twisted columns with Corinthian capitals similar to those at the major entry. North facade windows are 12 light awning windows with 3 light transoms. A triple set of windows is at the west end; 2 double sets are at the east end. Seventh street windows are all infilled. Two sets of 3 windows and 4 twisted columns are on the north end; 3 sets of 6 windows and 7 columns complete the facade. South windows appear only to the east of the entry. These windows have been covered with frame and louver, but windows and columns are intact beneath. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Original interior features of the first floor are intact. These include woodwork and moldings, wood-framed glass announcement cases, wood doors with glass transoms, concrete floor, and arched wood lobby ticket window with ornate grill cover.

Neutral Buildings

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1. Building No. 9: The most outstanding feature of this Federal Moderne two-story, rectangular building is the wood lamella roof. Built in 1941 of cast-in-place concrete, the building also features glass block utilized as wall sections, windows, and decorative detail. Clerestories of glass block along the north and south walls are on both the first floor and balcony. Glass block over the corner entries extends from door frames to the roof. Other entries on the north and south facades have transoms of glass block, three blocks high; the west entry has glass block almost to the roof.

Flat, semi-circular metal awnings overhang the corner entries which are 2 pairs of double doors. Side entries are a single pair of double metal doors. Over the entries on the north and south facades are five flag holders of concrete. The west facade is broken with steel casement windows and awnings. Entries are framed with vertical fluting resembling flattened columns extending to the awnings.

The Gymnasium interior is of concrete, except the gym floor, which is of wood. Concrete ramps in the lobby lead to the balcony. Framing of the lamella roof is visible inside the gym. Original features remain, such as interior vertical plank doors with original hardware, iron handrails, and wooden bleachers.

Intrusive Buildings

1. Building No. 8: Designated a Classroom Building, this two-story brick and concrete building has irregular massing, exterior stairwells, and an overhang around the building providing an arcade for students. It was built in 1972 and replaced the 1929 Library.

:

2. Gym: Located north of the stadium, this quonset hut is used as a gymnasium.

8. Significance



Specific dates 1912, 1921, 1927, 194] Builder/Architect Norman F. Marsh; Lescher, Kibbey and Mahoney; Fitzhugh. & Byrou

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Phoenix Union High School Historic District is significant for its historical role in promoting both community involvement and educational excellence, as well as for its architectural qualities and its various designers. The campus, located in a once prime residential area and adjacent to two major city streets, provided the city of Phoenix with a focus for cultural, civic, and family life for over fifty years. Its buildings housed not only all of the community's high school children between 1898 and 1939, but also all major educational, theatrical, civic, cultural, and athletic events. The school continued to function as an educational and community center through the 1960's. The campus plan, created with the three Classical style buildings built in 1912, was a progressive, modern concept, designed to provide Phoenix students with an educational environment superior to that which could be obtained in a single building. The significance of the district is enhanced by its associations with Los Angeles architect, Norman Foote Marsh, who designed the original three buildings, and with the Phoenix architectural firms of Lescher, Kibby and Mahoney, designers of the Liberal Arts Building and the Stadium, and Fitzhugh and Byron, who designed the Phoenix College, now Unit A. Several architectural styles popular during the first half of the twentieth century are represented on the campus.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Consideration of the establishment of a Phoenix Union High School began in early 1895 when voters approved an act creating the district in April of that year. Classes were held in Central School until the purchase of Block 42 and the Churchill residence in the Churchill Addition in 1897. This site was chosen from 14 offered at a mass meeting and was especially appealing because of the large residence, which saved the district the effort of constructing a new building. The site was also desirable for its central location at the corner of 7th Street and Van Buren, two of Phoenix's major thoroughfares.

The Churchill Addition was platted in 1880 and the Churchill residence begun in 1889, although never completed. When the school purchased the site in 1897, residential development in the addition and surrounding neighborhoods showed promise of supplying sufficient students to ensure continuing high school enrollment. An annex was added to the residence in 1899 to accommodate burgeoning enrollment, but the building was filled to capacity again within a few years. Although the Churchill residence became a secondary feature of the campus after the 1911-1912 construction phase, it did firmly establish the location of Phoenix's first high school campus and was a campus fixture until its destruction in 1949.

In 1903, Block 41 was purchased, and Blocks 43 and portions of Block 44 were bought in 1911-1912. Work was begun on three new Classical buildings in 1911 and completed in 1912: Domestic Arts & Sciences, Science Hall, and the Auditorium, forming the core of the campus plan, a new concept in high school education. The high school campus plan, found only in California at that time, emphasized separate buildings for each area of education and was considered an advance in scientific educational methods, with emphasis on technical laboratory space.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, <a>ktem 9, Page 2

10. Geographical Data

| Quadra | e of nominated prope ngle name <u>Phoen i</u> sterences | | | Quadrang | le scale _1:24,000 |
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10: 74)

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Much importance was attached to the benefits of adequate ventilation and lighting, fresh air between classes, pure water, and facilities for cleanliness; the new buildings were considered the ultimate in modern educational construction. Major emphases in planning the campus were on the health of the students and the educational advantages of the group plan of buildings. Each building was designed for a specific educational field to create the most advantageous learning environment. The Auditorium, in the center of Sixth Street between the two new science buildings, became the campus focus, relegating the Churchill house to business school status. The Auditorium was intended to provide an educational and theatrical center for the students, parents and city residents.

The new buildings were planned for 1000 students, although enrollment at the time was less than 500. The campus plan represented the expectations of city growth expressed by Phoenix citizens and provided the potential for future educational expansion.

The concept of the campus plan apparently originated with the architect selected for the project, Norman Foote Marsh, who had designed similar campuses at Redlands and Hollywood, California. Marsh was an important California architect who also designed the University of Redlands; several California high schools and churches; the master plan and many of the buildings of Venice, California; the First Presbyterian Church in Phoenix; and Monroe School in Phoenix (listed on the National Register), in addition to many other schools and churches.

The addition of the Liberal Arts and Industrial Arts Building in 1921 filled out the campus plan and exemplified the shift in educational emphasis from domestic arts and hard sciences to recognition of the needs of both college-bound students and those who required manual skills training. The buildings were praised for their combination of beauty, practicality, and healthful design. These two buildings continued Marsh's campus plan, but their design departed from the Classical styles of the earlier building phase and adopted the new Revival styles popular at the time. Revival styles continued to be used in campus construction over the next decade.

Phoenix College was established on the campus on the east side of 7th Street in 1920, first in two small cottages, then in a house called Cottonwood Court, and finally in Building A, a Spanish Colonial Revival building built in 1929 on the southeast corner of 7th Street and Fillmore. The college moved off the campus in 1939 and Building A reverted to the high school.

In 1925, Phoenix Union High School's new principal, Dr. Emery W. Montgomery, began efforts to build a new 10,500 seat stadium on school land east of 7th Street, which had been bought in 1925 and early 1926. Although voters approved the \$80,000 bond issue in December of 1925, subsequent litigation prevented construction until late 1927. The bonds were paid in less than 10 years, using only gate receipts from stadium activities. In 1947, the stadium was renamed Montgomery Stadium in honor of its founder.
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In the following years the annual pageant, Masque of the Yellow Moon, and the Thanksgiving Day football games between Phoenix Union High School and the Indian School and later North High School attracted thousands to the stadium. These two yearly events were traditional highlights of the community's activities and always filled the stadium to overflowing. Virtually every student participated in the pageant. The Masque was discontinued after 1955, when the student population increased to unwieldy proportions. The Thanksgiving Day football game between competing schools was the climax of the football season and was one of the year's most exciting events. The increase in the number of high schools reduced the intra-school rivalries and the Thanksgiving Day football game was discontinued in 1960.

Rebuilding of the Auditorium occurred in 1929 when it became apparent the building was too small for the crowds attending the events. The facade of the original building was to be incorporated into the new building to retain the Classical style continuity of the main campus fronting Van Buren Street and because public opinion strongly favored reuse of the front of the Auditorium. The facade was braced after demolition of the rest of the building, but a violent windstorm destroyed it. The front was completely rebuilt, following the original plans, and the cornerstone from the 1911 Auditorium reimplanted in the new building. The new Auditorium seated 2200 people and was the city's largest Auditorium for many years.

The completion of the Auditorium and Stadium further increased the involvement of the community with the campus. The Auditorium attracted road shows and plays and proved ideal for both public and school productions and speakers. The Stadium drew enthusiastic crowds from the entire city to sporting events and contributed to community spirit and school loyalty.

Major construction on campus halted during the Depression. In 1941, the Federal Moderne Gymnasium was built, completing the square of the campus' first four blocks and linking the west part of the campus with the east part. The concrete gym, with its lamella roof and glass block walls, was a WPA project. Funds from several years of student activities held in the gym provided the school's share of the cost. Activities at the Gymnasium further established the campus as the center of community and family involvement. Attendance at sports events at the gym was high.

The Churchill House was razed in 1949 to allow new building construction and campus infill. The Domestic Arts and Sciences Building was converted to adminstrative use at this time.

Unit A partially burned in 1961. The first floor interior and exterior were undamaged and, with a new roof, the building continued to be used by Phoenix Tech, Cosmetology, and evening classes. The building has been little changed both inside and outside; its design and detailing are well-preserved. Building 8, built in 1972, replaced the old library building, and is the most recent campus building. Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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Van Buren and 6th Streets, which had been important factors in the selection of the school location in 1897, became a detriment to the campus during the 1950s, when traffic increased substantially. Infill of windows and entrances of buildings facing these streets was made in an effort to reduce noise. The gradual transition of the neighborhood from residential to business and the opening of new high schools in suburbs reduced Phoenix Union's enrollment. The campus is today considered an inner city school and a large number of its students are members of minorities.

Marsh's original campus plan was followed throughout the history of Phoenix Union High School. The use of specific buildings for specific purposes persists and expansion has been possible without relocating the campus, two major features of the campus concept. Despite the physical changes made to individual buildings, the campus retains its integrity as a unit, providing facilities for education, entertainment, and athletics. The cohesiveness of the campus as it exists today derives from the early emphasis on and continued adherence to the campus plan.

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING TECHONOLOGY

Most of the major twentieth century architectural styles are represented in the District as an expression of the long period of building which occurred. Classical was the dominant style, used first in the three 1912 buildings facing Van Buren Street. Norman Marsh's design of these buildings and his creation of the campus derive from his earlier work in California.

Originally from Illinois, Marsh moved to Los Angeles in 1900. Schools and churches were his design specialties until 1906, when his firm, Marsh & Russell, was commissioned to design a replication of Venice, Italy, to be built in California by Abner Kinney as a monument to himself. The city of Venice, California, was built near Los Angeles, complete with canals, arcades, pavillions, loggias and colonnades. Marsh used concrete extensively in the construction of the buildings, a characteristic expressed in the buildings he designed for Phoenix Union.

The group plan of buildings for high schools was employed by Marsh at least twice before the design of the Phoenix Union buildings. His experiences in the design of the college campus at the University of Redlands may have convinced him of the efficacy of the campus plan for educational advantages. In addition, he recognized that the campus plan was ideally suited to the southwestern climate.

The monumental nature of the three Van Buren Street buildings expressed the importance of upper education to the community. The similar styles of the buildings unified the streetfront and created the public image of the campus plan. This image was so strong that it was preserved during the 1929 rebuilding of the Auditorium by the recreation of the building's Classical facade while the new Auditorium's interior was of Spanish Colonial Revival style. The combining of the two styles by Phoenix Architects Green and Hall permitted preservation of the significant facade and modernization of the interior.

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Revival styles, popular during the 1920s, were applied to several campus buildings constructed during that period. In particular, the Italian Renaissance style of the Liberal Arts Building perpetuated the grandiosity of the first three buildings in its size and inscribed monumental facade. The two Spanish Colonial Revival Buildings - the Stadium and Unit A - combined exterior beauty with interior practicality and function. These buildings reflected the expanding focus of the educational system as well as the changing architectural styles. The Liberal Arts Building was designed by the well-known Phoenix architectural firm of Lescher, Kibbey and Mahoney, whereas the locally significant firm of Fitzhugh and Byron designed the Phoenix College Building (Unit A).

The Gymnasium, built in 1941 in Federal Moderne style, is the only building on the campus representative of that period. Unlike earlier campus buildings, the Gymnasium is simple in style with little overt ornamentation. Stylistic elements, such as glass block, are incorporated in the construction techniques of the building itself.

The most recent building in the District, Building 8, is in a modern style, with construction materials embodied as design elements of the building.

Historically, concrete was the favored construction material on the Phoenix Union High School campus. Seven of the eight buildings built between 1900 and 1941 and still remaining on the campus are of concrete; the eighth is of clay tile with concrete frame. This extensive use of concrete reflects the popularity and economy of the material, as well as its adaptability to a variety of design styles and decorative features. Concrete ornamentation and engraving highlight these buildings. The almost exclusive use of a construction material such as concrete perhaps expresses the permanence and enduring qualities intially associated with the erection of the buildings.

ASSOCIATION WITH HISTORIC PERSONS

Several Phoenix Union High School graduates achieved fame or became well-known personalities, while many others became prominent Arizona businessmen, professionals, and politicians. Several Phoenix Union athletes continued on in sports, achieving professional and Olympic status.

One of the earliest and best-known of Phoenix Union High School students was Frank Luke, Jr. In high school, the popular Luke was captain and quarterback of the 1916 football team. Luke enlisted during World War I, became a famous flying ace and was shot down over France and killed on September 29, 1918. A memorial commemorating his death and the wartime services of other Phoenix residents stands in front of the old Capitol Building in downtown Phoenix.

Another notable student was Bill Mauldin, a Pulitzer Prize winning political cartoonist. Mauldin created the 'Willie & Joe'' cartoon strip during World War II after graduating from Phoenix Union High School in 1939. Entertainer Steve Allen, Class of '41, began his public career as a journalism major and an assistant editor of the yearbook at Phoenix Union. (continued on following page) Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10:74)

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ARCHEOLOGY

Although no known prehistoric archeological sites exist in the District, potential exists for the discovery of prehistoric materials. Central Phoenix is recognized as an area generally occupied by the Hohokam and prehistoric sites are common. Testing of adjacent blocks over the past two years has revealed many pit houses, trash pits, and portions of canals associated with Hohokam occupation. Although it is unlikely major prehistoric sites exist on the campus due to extensive building activities, archeological testing and monitoring of future construction work would determine the extent and integrity of any sites on the campus.

Three historical archeological sites are potentially significant to the District. The location of the Churchill House provides a potential for information about nineteenth century building practices as well as the activities and material culture of literally hundreds of students who used the building over a period of nearly 50 years. The House had a nine-foot deep basement which may be substantially intact despite rebuilding on the site, and which may contain material culture from the entire occupational period. The site appears to be only partially covered by new buildings and should be accessible for testing.

A second historical archeological site is the location of the former Cottonwood Court, on the east side of 7th Street. Now an open area south of Unit A, this house served as the Phoenix College building for several years. Historic photographs show it a large two-story residence with steep shingled roof and L- or U-shaped veranda. The site has the potential of yielding information about the activities and material culture of early Phoenix residents, in addition to information about student behavior. The site may not have been deeply disturbed during the razing of the house, and is accessible for testing.

The third historical archeological site is one of the city's early canals, the Salt River Valley Canal, which transects the campus and was filled in during the mid-1920s. Canals have good potential as archeological sites as they generally become collectors of miscellaneous trash and lost items, and thus reflect much of the material culture of the site's occupants. In this case, neighborhood residents as well as students probably contributed to the canal. The fill of the canal is also a potential source of information. The kind of material used for the fill is unknown but could have been debris containing cultural material. In addition, artifacts are often inadvertently or deliberately included with fill during the filling process. The canal is likely to yield information useful in archeological analysis of patterns of human behavior and material culture. Although portions of the canal are built upon, sections can be located for testing.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL HISTORIC DISTRICT BUILDING INVENTORY

The following is a list of all the properties within the Phoenix Union High School Historic District. Although the accepted convention is to designate such buildings with a numbering system, the buildings in this historic district have already been numbered

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by the Phoenix Union High School Administrative District. This existing numbering system will be used for the historic district to avoid confusion. The buildings in the historic district have been classified as contributing, neutral, or intrusive. Criteria for this evaluation are as follows:

IA

- Contributing: Buildings that have particular historical, architectural, or cultural importance to the district's sense of time, place and historical development by virtue of their location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association and integrity. These buildings define the district physically and historically and are integral to the significance of the district.
- Neutral: Buildings which add to the district's sense of time, place and historical development by virtue of their location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, and integrity. These buildings add to the definition and integrity of the district but are of more recent construction. They retain a high level of integrity and may in time become integral to the significance of the district.
- Intrusion: Buildings that detract from the district's sense of time, place and historical development in terms of age, scale, design setting, materials, feeling, workmanship, and association. The place of these buildings in the overall development of the district is too recent to be properly considered as historic.

| Contributing | Neutral |
|--|----------------------------|
| Building No. 1 - Domestic Arts and Sciences Building No. 2 - Auditorium | Building No. 9 - Gymnasium |
| Building No. 3 - Science Hall Building No. 5 - Liberal Arts | Intrusion |
| Montgomery Stadium Unit A - Phoenix College | Building No. 8 Gym |
| <u>1</u> | |

Addendum:

The Phoenix Union High School Board of Education voted, in early 1982, to close the school. On May 18, 1982, district voters approved the sale of the property. The entire campus will be put up for sale on July 1, 1982.

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Maricopa County Recorder's Office

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Phoenix Union High School District Administration Office, Interview: Mary Jane Finley,

Research Services

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Phoenix Union High School District Services Office. Interviews: Bernard Orendac Marguerite Woodring Mike Kazlow John LeBlanc Phoenix District Services Office: Phoenix Union High School System, Record of Deeds Estimated Historical Building Costs of Phoenix Union High School District Pre-7/1/77 Chronology of Events in Phoenix Union High School System History Phoenix Union High School - Assistance from office of Dr. Milt Jones, Principal Phoenix Union High School Students' Manual and Announcement of Courses, 1926-27

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The Phoenix Union High School Historic District includes portions of the Churchill Addition, Spaulding Resubdivision and Dennis Addition as follows: Beginning at the intersection of a line demarcating the east edge of the Stadium track with the north property line of the Phoenix Union High School District on the south side of Fillmore Street, thence south along the east edge of the Stadium track to the northern right-of-way line for Dennis Street (abandoned), thence west to the property line on the west side of Seventh Street, thence south to the property line on the north side of Van Buren Street, thence west 540 feet, thence north 260 feet along a line abutting the west wall of Building 1, thence east 300 feet, thence north 410 feet to the property line on the south side of Taylor Street, thence east to the property line on the east side of Seventh Street, thence north to the property line on the south side of Seventh Street, thence north

These boundaries are delineated on the enclosed district map.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Phoenix Union High School Historic District

Maricopa County, ARIZONA

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Keeper Any Sulagel Federman 8/20/89



July 12, 1989

Ms. Carol D. Shull Keeper of the National Register National Register of Historic Places National Park Service U. S. Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20240

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Re: National Register Delistings

Dear Ms. Shull:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 60.15, and upon recommendation by the Historic Sites Review Committee, I am petitioning for the removal of the following properties from the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons cited:

| LEPHONE 602-542-4174 | Property Name | Location | Reason to Delist |
|--|--|--|------------------|
| ROSE MOFFORD | (Maricopa County) | | |
| GOVERNOR | Montgomery Stadium (Phoenix Union High School District, East Campus) | between Fillmore & Polk Sts., on 7th St. Phoenix, AZ | Demolished |
| STATE PARKS BOARD MEMBERS | Concrete block house (Roosevelt Historic District) | 618-620 N. 4th Ave. Phoenix, AZ | . " |
| JON! BOSH CHAIR PHOENIX | Double Roof Cottage (Roosevelt Historic District) | 610 W. McKinley Phoenix, AZ | " |
| WILLIAM G. ROE VICE CHAIR TUCSON | Patio Royale Apartments. (Roosevelt Historic District) | 75 W. Portland Phoenix, AZ | " |
| RONALD PIES SECRETARY TEMPE | Thayer House (Roosevelt Historic District) | 60 W. Portland Phoenix, AZ | |
| ELIZABETH A. DRAKE | Bankhead Highway (Tempe MRA) | Old 8th Street, Rural to Hayden Tempe, AZ | " |
| DEAN M. FLAKE SNOWFLAKE | Ellingson Warehouse (Tempe MRA) | 24 W. 7th Tempe, AZ | " |
| DUANE MILLER SEDONA | Joseph E. Johnson House | 720 Mill Ave. | |
| M. JEAN HASSELL STATE LAND COMMISSIONER | (Tempe MRA) | Tempe, AZ | |
| | Steward House (Tempe MRA) | 612 Maple Tempe, AZ | " |
| KENNETH E. TRAVOUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Sampson House (Tempe MRA) | 109 W. 6th St. Tempe, AZ | Moved/Altered |

ARIZONA

800 W. WASHINGTON SUITE 415 PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007 **TELEPHONE 602-542-4174**

> COURTLAND NELSON DEPUTY DIRECTOR

