

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 17 2015

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.

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: South High School

Other names/site number: Barrett Junior High School, Barrett Middle School

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location

Street & number: 345 E. Deshler Avenue

City or town: Columbus State: Ohio County: Franklin

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Barbara Power</i> | DSHPO for Inventory & Registration | <i>July 10, 2015</i> |
| Signature of certifying official/Title: | | Date |
| <u> </u> Ohio History Connection, State Historic Preservation Office | | |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | | |

| | |
|---|--|
| In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria. | |
| Signature of commenting official: | Date |
| Title : | State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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): _____

for Eason H. Beall *9.1.15*
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Renaissance Revival

Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, BRICK

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

South High School is a 4-story masonry building on the south side of downtown Columbus, Ohio. Constructed in 1898, the building fronts E. Deshler Avenue on a nearly six-acre site that spans from Bruck Street to S. Washington Avenue. Designed by architect David Riebel, South High School is characteristic of the masonry educational facilities designed by the Columbus Public Schools' resident architect in the late 19th and early 20th century. South High School is defined by a large central block with east and west wings connected by circulation cores. Reflecting Renaissance Revival style, South High School features a central projecting portico, rusticated base, belt courses between floors, double hung windows, and round-arch windows at the top level of the main block. South High School is capped by a dentilled cornice, wide eaves with decorative brackets, and a low-pitch hipped roof.

A large single story addition was constructed in phases between 1953 and 1968. Located on the east elevation, the red brick addition is set back from the front of the original school building, remains below the first floor windows, and only connects on the interior through the existing basement level with minimal impact on the historic building. The interior of South High School includes historic window and door trim, tile flooring, plaster walls, and pressed tin ceilings throughout many spaces. Historic stairs and corridors remain, and interior modifications have been minimal. Although all windows have been replaced, the units are compatible with the building's original windows and all openings have been retained. South High School retains a high degree of historic integrity, with the overall appearance and character of the building remaining largely unchanged from the period of significance, 1898-1924.

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Narrative Description

South High School is a historic school building at the southeast corner of East Deshler Avenue and Bruck Street, in the Merion Village neighborhood of south Columbus (Franklin County Parcel # 010-066697-00). The building sits approximately two blocks east of the German Village Historic District (NR 1974, NR 1980) and less than one-quarter mile east of Schiller Park. The surrounding area of Merion Village is a residential neighborhood consisting largely of single family houses dating to the early 20th-century. South High School is located one-half mile from High Street, a major thoroughfare of downtown Columbus.

The site of South High School has been expanded multiple times in the 1950s to include two full blocks bounded by East Deshler Avenue (north), Bruck Street (west), Thurman Avenue (south) and South Washington Avenue (east).

The original site was much smaller, bounded on the east by Rex Alley and the south by Red Bud Alley, both of which have since been abandoned through the school property but remain at the surrounding blocks. In 1901, the school included two detached outhouses just south of the building, adjacent to Red Bud Alley. The remaining areas of the current site were divided into single-family lots, although only a few scattered houses had been constructed by that point (Figure 3). The school property was expanded south to Thurman Avenue c.1920, with Red Bud Alley abandoned west of Rex Alley but the latter remaining as the east boundary of the site. The original outhouses had been removed, but two detached ancillary buildings had been constructed near Thurman. By that point, the east half of the block between Rex Alley and South Washington Avenue was fully developed with 1 and 2-family homes typical of the surrounding neighborhood (Figure 4). The site remained in that configuration through 1952 (Figure 5).

Beginning in 1953, the school began acquiring and demolishing properties east of Rex Alley to accommodate construction of the existing additions (built in 1953, 1958 and 1968) and the adjacent surface parking lot to the east. The south half of Rex Alley and all of Red Bud Alley remained intact and served as boundaries of the school property until 1968, when the remainder of Rex Alley and west end of Red Bud Alley were vacated for construction of a baseball diamond off the southeast corner of the historic site. The east section of Red Bud Alley remained, and a new north-south alley was created near the midpoint of the east block to connect it with Thurman Avenue (Figure 6). It is unknown when the remainder of the east block was acquired and cleared by the school, with the baseball field enlarged and reconfigured to its current condition, but it was clearly after 1968.

The original 1898 concrete and steel-frame building consists of three floors above a raised basement, totaling nearly 60,000 square feet (Photos 1, 2, 3). The building fronts East Deshler Avenue facing north. South High School consists of one large cube-shaped block flanked by two smaller rectangular forms, joined by two recessed circulation cores between both wings (Photos 1, 6, 7). A large single-story addition abuts the original structure on the east end of the building, constructed in three distinct phases: 1953, 1958, and 1968 (Photos 4, 5). The site is paved for recreational purposes from the rear of the original school building to the south boundary of the

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site at Thurman Avenue. A baseball field occupies the site from the east end of the addition to Washington Avenue. Two small dugout structures remain at the southeast corner of the property.

South High School exhibits late 19th-century Renaissance Revival style architecture through the use of brick masonry construction, cube-shaped massing, symmetrical façade, a rusticated stone base, stone banding, wide eaves with decorative brackets and cornice, and a low pitched hip roof. South High School also reflects influences of classical Greek and Roman architecture in the single-story entry porch with columns and keystone window treatments, typical of the Columbus school buildings being produced at this time (Photos 1, 6).

The symmetrical primary façade of South High School consists of tan brick with a half-story raised basement of smooth stone. The 7-bay central block of the school rises 3.5 stories above the raised basement, while the two flanking 4-bay blocks are slightly shorter sitting three full stories above the basement. The building sits approximately thirty feet from Deshler Avenue.

The central block sits slightly forward of the two flanking blocks, connected by deeply recessed hyphens, with steps leading from grade to a non-historic double doors with a single-light transom, flush with the face of the building (Photos 1, 7). The original stone entry surrounds remain intact in both hyphens. A central single-story entry porch extends from the façade of the central block, supported by two pairs of Tuscan columns. A rounded arch recessed entry contains two non-historic doors divided by a pilaster, topped by a semicircular transom. The segmental entry surround is of matching stone used in the building's base. The interior of the entry porch is defined by two pairs of square pilasters mirroring the full columns at the exterior edge of the porch. A full entablature rests on the porch columns, with a plain architrave, a frieze containing signage that reads "BARRETT SCHOOL", and a decorative cornice with dentil molding. The porch is capped with a low balustrade and two pairs of newel posts reflecting the column placement below. All elements of the entry porch are of stone, spanning the width of the three central bays.

Stone belt courses divide each floor. The decorative cornice lines at the top of the building are emphasized with a wide, divided band of trim. The cornice includes dentil molding that spans the entire length of the façade, with wide eaves boxed by decorative brackets separated by stone rosettes.

The main façade of the central block is dominated by an elaborate fenestration pattern. Each bay contains a single window unit, varying in size by floor level. Narrow 4/4 double hung windows occupy the basement level. The first story is defined by simple 6/6 double hung windows with stone sills and flat lintels. Second story windows are also 6/6 double hung units with stone sills and keystone lintels. The first and second levels reflect the same height and window sizes. The third level is approximately 1.5 stories in height, with seven full-length windows. Each unit consists of one 6/6 double hung window topped by a fixed rounded top divided light. Each window unit is placed within a stone surround with rounded arch top, sitting above a stone inset panel. A keystone marks the top of each stone surround. The two blocks flanking the central form match the basement, first, and second levels in window type and size. The third levels of

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the two blocks contain one 6/6 double hung window with a straight stone surround and inset panel below. The two smaller building forms have four bays on the primary façade. A low-pitched hip roof caps each of the three masses, typical of Renaissance Revival design. The central block has three hipped dormers evenly spaced across the front of the building. The two supporting masses each have one hipped dormer centered above the façade.

The stone banding between stories and decorative cornice wrap all blocks of the building into the secondary entry recesses. The central block has three bays of matching window types, as described on the front façade, which face into the recess. The circulation connections between wings match the height of the two flanking blocks, with one bay of matching window units to the secondary block fenestration pattern. The secondary blocks have two bays of windows at the basement and third level, each matching the unit style of the front façade.

The west elevation has eight bays of matching details and fenestration pattern as the north elevation described above. Barrett School sits approximately 100 feet from Bruck Street, leaving a green space on the corner of the site (Photo 2). Grade of the site provides a greater reveal of the basement level, giving the school an appearance of a full four-story building. Belt courses on all levels wrap from the north façade and terminate at the corner of the south elevation. A small non-historic addition at the basement level extends approximately five feet at Bay 3. The basement window of Bay 8 has been infilled with a wood partition at an unknown date. Floors 1-3 all have window units that match the north façade. Two hipped dormers sit above Bays 3 and 6, with 1/1 double hung windows. Two interior chimneys of tan brick are visible above the hipped roof.

The central block of the south elevation differs from the established fenestration pattern in the rest of the building. The basement, first, and second level are defined by three groups of window units; a pair of narrow windows flanked by two groups of three narrow windows. These units are similar in style to the typical windows throughout Barrett School as they are 6/6 double hung with stone sills. All units have smooth lintels. A non-historic double entry remains centered on the elevation at the basement level, opening to grade at the rear of the site. The third level has five evenly spaced single windows. The windows in Bays 1 and 5 are shorter than the other three, with stone sills and smooth lintels. The central three windows are taller units, now comprised of 6/6 double hung windows with a solid panel above. There is no stone banding between levels on the south elevation, but the decorative cornice with wide trim, dentils, wide eaves, and decorative brackets spans the entire elevation on all blocks of the building. The two secondary blocks exhibit a simplified fenestration pattern similar to the north façade. Floors one, two, and three all have single 6/6 double hung units, with stone stills and smooth lintels. The basement level on both secondary blocks is defined by non-historic, single story red brick additions that were constructed in 1968. The circulation connection between the central block and two flanking masses is recessed three bays, with steps leading from grade to a single entry on both sides (Photo 7). Non-historic double doors remain in the original stone surrounds. Single double hung windows are centered in the recess on floors two and three. Eight chimneys are visible above the hipped roof. No dormers are present on the south elevation.

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The east elevation is defined by the single story red brick addition constructed in three phases between 1953 and 1968 (Photos 7,8). The mass is broken up by metal casement windows of varying sizes. Shallow awnings cover recessed entries on the north and east elevations, marked by blue glazed tile (Photos 6, 7). Several egress doors remain on the south elevation that open onto the large asphalt recreation area. The additions abut Barrett School at the basement level, rising a few feet beyond the belt course below the first floor. The connection of the addition sits recesses two bays from the north elevation of the original school building, consisting of one single masonry opening in the east exterior wall of the original South High School building. This opening connects the basement of the original building to the first floor of the addition at grade. A single-story mass extends beyond the connection toward Deshler Avenue to be flush with the front of the central block of Barrett School (Photos 7,8). A small mass wraps the southeast corner of the building, but the bulk of the addition extends south beyond the rear elevation of Barrett School (4, 5, 6). The interior consists of concrete block, brick, and glazed tile walls, tile floors, and acoustic tile ceiling throughout. The addition houses a cafeteria at the north end of the building, an auditorium with gymnasium located behind the stage in the central block, and a secondary gymnasium and science laboratory classrooms at the south end of the building (Photos 17-21).

The east elevation of the original South High School building, which remains visible and unaltered above the later additions, mirrors the west elevation as described above. Belt courses, double hung windows, stone sills and lintels define the elevation visible above the addition. The decorative frieze wraps the entire length of the east elevation, with two hipped dormers containing 1/1 double hung windows above Bays 3 and 6. Two interior chimneys of tan brick are visible above the hipped roof.

The interior of South High School retains much of its historic character and finishes. Designed with an H-shaped configuration, a central corridor is oriented in the east-west direction through the circulation connections to the secondary blocks flanking the central mass (Photo 8). The central block contains four corner classrooms at the basement, first, and second level. Mechanical space, trades classrooms, and the kitchen originally were housed in the basement. The wings of the building each contain four classrooms in a linear orientation along the exterior wall. The circulation cores consist of two open stairs flanking the connecting corridor (Photo 10). Original stairs were replaced with steel and concrete in 1924 in an effort to increase fire safety within the building. The third floor shifts from the repeated classroom plan of the lower levels. The two secondary blocks originally contained auxiliary spaces including locker rooms, a science room, and an art room.

With over 20 feet in ceiling height, the third level of the central block originally housed the school's auditorium. This space was later converted to a gymnasium during the 1924 alterations and then divided into classrooms during the 1950s renovations. Original pressed tin ceilings remain throughout many spaces, including classrooms and stairwells (Photos 9, 11). Dropped ceilings cover the majority of painted tin. Original plaster walls, window trim, and chalkboard trim also remain throughout the building (Photo 12). Vinyl tile covers the floor, metal lockers remain from the late-1960s installation, and all windows were replaced with compatible aluminum units in 1983 (Photos 8, 9).

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South High School retains a high degree of historic integrity. Despite the alterations and additions to South High School, the existing building still largely reflects Riebel's 1898 design. The two major alterations of the building include the large addition on the east end of the building, and the replacement of all original windows. Although the addition remains extant, the mass is smaller in scale and profile, maintains a clear visual setback from the street and the original school façade, and was constructed with minimal alteration to the form and fabric at the basement level. Because of this, the large addition has minimal impact on the original South High School building exterior design and interior configuration.

A survey by the Columbus Landmarks Foundation in April 2002 specifically notes that South High School (Barrett School) retains its historic character and details, adding that the addition has minimal impact on the building and the replacement windows are compatible. All original openings remain and are clearly recognizable. The replacement windows closely reflect the historic appearance of the original double hung units, as evidenced in historic photographs. All other original exterior materials and significant architectural details, including the stone banding, decorative frieze and brackets, door and window surrounds, and entry porch have been preserved (Photo 9). The interior also retains significant historic integrity, maintaining much of the original school configuration, door and window trim, chalkboard trays and molding, pressed tin ceilings, and plaster walls (Photos 12, 15). The most significant interior alteration was the subdivision of the assembly space on the top floor, but the original ceiling heights, circulation, and primary demising walls remain intact. The original building clearly conveys its historic associations with architect David Riebel, the late 19th and early 20th century expansion of the Columbus schools and the associated development of the Merion Village neighborhood.

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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.)

- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1898-1924

Significant Dates

1898
1900
1903
1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

David Riebel

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

South High School is nominated under Criterion A for its significance to the broad pattern of neighborhood development in the south side of downtown Columbus. South High School is associated with a growing population of the Merion Village neighborhood in the late 19th and early 20th century, where it provided an educational focal point of the new community.

In addition to the building's associations with development of the surrounding neighborhood, this property is also nominated under Criterion C for being a distinctive example of public school architecture designed by David Riebel. The building reflects a limited building stock of the renowned architect's work with Columbus Public Schools during this period. The period of significance begins with construction of South High School in 1898 and continues until a new high school facility was constructed to replace it in 1924. Although the building remained in use by the school district as a junior high and middle school for several decades, the building's significance is derived from its original architecture and its associations with the initial development of the surrounding neighborhood, both of which were complete by 1924.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Early History of Columbus Schools

The early history of Columbus schools began with privately operated institutions. Efforts to establish a public education system dates to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the Land Ordinance of 1785, where land in every township was to be reserved for schools. Despite the early legislation, it was not necessarily applied. Support of Congress to put a portion of proceeds from Ohio public land sales to schools resulted in monetary abuse. In 1821 the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation requiring the establishment of school districts, encouraged the election of a school committee, and urged taxation for the construction of necessary facilities. Unfortunately these efforts were ignored as well.

While legislation for public school support struggled to gain traction, small private schools provided opportunities for education on a small scale. The first log cabin school opened in 1814 on the east side of the Scioto River. Between 1814 and 1816 a number of other local schools opened on a voluntary basis but quickly closed. A group of twenty community members organized in 1820 and built a school near Third and State Streets, but failed to draw attendance.¹

Due to state school lands previously being sold to fund state government, a new law in 1825 encouraged taxation of property owners, assuming the financial burden of establishing and maintaining schools. Support from property owners was difficult to gain, but in 1826 the first public schools opened in Columbus and Franklinton.² Over the following decade, public and private schools alike would open and fail as enthusiasm for educating the city's children was lacking. Many parents were illiterate and did not see a benefit of education, instead seeking value in a working life. After a convention of teachers expressed the need for universal education, a state superintendent of school was hired in 1838 and a public school district was formally established, although exceedingly limited in resources.

While this was a major advancement in education advocacy, the state did not require attendance and teachers were inadequately compensated and trained.³ Regardless of the continued challenges, Columbus and Franklinton merged into a single district this same year. Within five years, a total of fifteen public schools were operating in the city, serving approximately 700 students. Attendance was mandated by this time, but that did not mean schooling was enforced as an estimated 900 students remained truant.

¹ Doreen Uhas Sauer, "A History of Columbus Schools: 1812-1912," *Teaching Columbus*: 2, accessed July 22, 2014, <http://www.teachingcolumbus.org/a-history-of-columbus-schools-1812-1912.html>.

² Columbus Landmarks Foundation Working Group, *Historic Schools in the Columbus Public Schools District* (Columbus: Columbus Landmarks Foundation, 2002), 3.

³ Sauer, 2

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In 1845, Ohio legislation was passed that placed the public schools of Columbus under the control of a board of six directors, known as the Board of Education.⁴ This enabled the district to develop a system of schools with consistent regulations and directives. In 1847, Dr. Asa D. Lord was hired as the first superintendent of schools, reportedly becoming the first superintendent west of the Allegheny Mountains and the second in the United States. During his nine years of employment he organized the first public high school in Columbus, assisted in the creation of the Ohio State Teachers Association, adopted the graded system, and expanded class level offerings to include primary through high school.⁵ German and Irish immigration, along with a growing African American population mixed throughout the city, created an increasing need for additional schools. With the Civil War breaking in 1861, Central High School moved into a new building at Sixth and East Broad, where it would stand as the only high school in Columbus for the next twenty years.⁶ Following the Civil War the Ohio General Assembly passed the first state law making school attendance compulsory for children between 8 and 14 years old.

By 1887, Ohio Legislature repealed all laws establishing separate schools for black students, although Columbus Public Schools had been desegregated since 1882. Columbus was progressive in this issue as the city felt it would have been more costly to operate and maintain separate schools for each race prior to this point. The greatest driving factor was the increasing population of African Americans throughout the city, which distributed the population out amongst varying schools. Local educational initiatives in 1890s Columbus often mirrored the Progressive Era reforms at the state and national levels. These changes included an increasing professionalism in education, higher standards in curriculum and course offerings.⁷ Another key reflection of education reform was school design and construction.

As both black and white population grew by a combined 60% by the time of desegregation, matched with stricter attendance laws, the number of students in schools grew exponentially. Overcrowding at Central High School led to the establishment of North High School in 1882, and East High School in 1889. Despite new facilities being constructed, the number of students continued to climb. In 1898 the pattern of overcrowding in North and Central High led to the establishment of South High School, which was to be constructed on Deshler Avenue. North High School was also reconstructed on its original site at this time.

David Riebel – South High School

With a large number of construction projects to address in the school district's first major building campaign, a local professional was hired to serve as the resident architect of Columbus Public Schools. For a decade prior the school district had a Superintendent of Buildings, but no documentation confirms this was an architect position. Instead, local architects were hired on a project basis when school facilities were to be constructed. This resulted in high commission costs which proved to be unsustainable with a rapidly growing student body.

⁴ Ibid, 5.

⁵ Columbus Landmarks Foundation, 3.

⁶ Sauer, 7.

⁷ Columbus Landmarks Foundation, 4.

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In 1893, local architect David Riebel was hired to fulfil the district's architect position. Riebel had done work for the school district since 1891, and his appointment would enable the school system to manage design and construction of the many impending buildings in-house, which increased efficiency and reduced costs.⁸ Riebel was experienced in many sectors of design work, including residences, churches, libraries, hotels, and factories in addition to his school work.⁹ Notable non-education projects in Columbus include the Southern Hotel in Columbus in addition to residences for D. Kelly, E.B. Gerlach, and W.A. Miller. Riebel served as school architect from 1893 until 1921 during which time he designed nearly 40 school facilities. Riebel's school designs in the 1890s and early 20th-century are described as "defining one of the golden ages in the history of Columbus Public School buildings: large, impressive, three-story masonry buildings often punctuated with central towers, and a rich use of materials creating color, texture, and variety in the buildings."¹⁰ Riebel's designs often reflected influence of Greek and Roman classical styles mixed with current trends of Richardsonian Romanesque and Renaissance Revival design. In 1904, David Riebel's two sons joined his architecture firm becoming known as Riebel & Sons for many years to follow. Riebel continued to work privately while he also served as the school architect until 1921.

With high schools already established in north, central, and east Columbus, when a fourth high school was needed in response to overcrowding in the late 1890s the increasing population of the city's south side made it the next logical location to build. In 1898 a site was purchased by the Columbus Board of Education for \$7,000 in what is referred to as Merion Village, just east of German Village. Merion Village was named for the Nathaniel Merion family, who settled on the south side in 1809 on 1800 acres of rural land. William Merion was an entrepreneur that aimed to capitalize on the canal trade from the Columbus Feeder Canal. The South Side became home to a large German population in the mid-19th century when the region became industrialized. While German Village thrived, Merion Village also experienced a residential boom as the Steelton area to the south developed into a manufacturing center of Columbus.¹¹ What once was farmland quickly became sites for homes, stores, churches, and eventually schools.

Riebel's plans for South High School were modeled after his now-demolished East High School building, which was nearly complete at that time. The four-story Renaissance Revival building with influences of classical design became another staple in Riebel's portfolio of work around the city. Typical of Riebel, South High School features large round-arched openings, stone trim, a raised basement with stone rustication, and rooflines accentuated with dormers.

This was the second school Riebel designed in Merion Village; Southwood Elementary was built in 1894 – a Richardsonian Romanesque style design with a monumental tower, which remains extant and operational. South High School officially opened on October 12, 1900 with a ceremony that included participation of Ohio State University president, William Oxley Thompson. South High School had its first graduating class in 1903. The construction of the

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "Architectural Work of D. Riebel," *The Ohio Architect Engineer and Builder* 25, no. 4 (April 1915): 13.

¹⁰ Columbus Landmarks Foundation, 5.

¹¹ Merion Village Association, "Merion Village," Remarkable Ohio, April, 2008, 1.

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new high school marked the beginning of the Progressive Era reforms and education theory that emerged in the early 1900s.¹²

The new school building was surrounded by and closely associated with the developing residential neighborhood of Merion Village. A 1901 Sanborn Map (Figure 3) shows the divided parcels of the adjacent streets, with single family dwellings scattered throughout the neighborhood, but minimal development had occurred by that time and the neighborhood was clearly in its early stages of growth. The neighborhood grew rapidly after construction of South High School, however. A 1922 Sanborn Map (Figure 4) shows significant growth with residential structures occupying every parcel and the entire neighborhood was effectively fully developed by that time. The presence of the new school reflected the growing importance of education to the families of Merion Village, as the community developed and established its identity within the expanding landscape of Columbus. South High School served as a focal point and anchor to the emerging community.

Just as a building boom was witnessed at the end of the 19th century, another surge in school construction occurred twenty years later. During the 1920s building campaign, all 19th century high schools were replaced with new facilities; East (1922), South (1923), North (1924), and West (1929). In 1923, a new South High School was constructed, designed by Richards, McCarty, & Bulford, which resulted in Riebel's South High conversion to a junior high school. As part of the conversion and a broader effort to improve the fire safety of the city's school buildings, architect Howard Dwight Smith designed new steel and concrete stairs to replace the originals, with smoke-proof partitions added between the stair cores and the central corridor. Very minor changes were made to the interior plan, and the original auditorium on the top floor was converted to a gymnasium, although with no significant alterations of its volume or configuration. In 1924 the new South High School opened and the old South High School became Barrett Junior High (later Barrett Middle School), named after the first principal of South High School, Professor C.S. Barrett.

Columbus City Schools continued to improve and steadily mature over the next two decades until the period following World War II, when another phase of remarkable growth occurred. Burgeoning population and student enrollment resulted in the construction of additions to many of the now older school buildings; South High School (then Barrett Junior High School) was no exception to the trend. In 1953, a single-story brick addition included an auditorium, cafeteria, and boy's gym – eliminating the alley that divided the school site from the adjacent half of the block. Designed by Benham, Richards, and Armstrong Architects, the addition reflects modern construction methods included steel framing and concrete slab foundations and has a utilitarian aesthetic. At the same time, the gymnasium space on the top floor of the original building was subdivided to create three classrooms on the north side of a newly created corridor, with a smaller gymnasium created on the south side.

In 1958 a second single story addition, also designed by Benham, Richards, and Armstrong Architects, was constructed south of the boy's gym, adding classroom space and a second

¹² Columbus Landmarks Foundation, 4.

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gymnasium, allowing for the subdivision of the south gymnasium space in the original building and resulting in its current configuration. A final small infill addition was constructed in 1968, designed by C.B. Forward & Associates, with consulting architect David E. Jones, adding a music room and two small mechanical rooms. Barrett Middle School functioned until 2006 when the school district ceased use of the facility. The building was used again on a temporary basis from 2007-2009 while the 1923 South High School was renovated. The nominated property has been vacant since that time.

According to a 2002 Columbus Landmarks Foundation survey, out of nearly 40 school buildings designed, 15 Riebel schools still stand in Columbus today. South High School is significant as it stands as a focal point in Merion Village, reflecting the growing importance of education not only to the local community but in the Columbus public school system that struggled to gain support throughout the latter half of the 19th century. South High School reflects the residential development of South Side Columbus in addition to the growing professionalism in the field of education. The construction of large school buildings of significant style lends evidence to the city's value in education and the community's efforts in place making. Similar to the other high schools in Columbus, South High School was a neighborhood-based facility, serving a planned quadrant in a growing city. This concept deviated from the common trend in other major cities in the country, where one centralized urban high school served the mass resident population.¹³

South High School is also significant as a product of architect David Riebel's "golden age in the history of Columbus Public School buildings". South High School reflects a national trend toward classicism in architecture compounded with Riebel's early-20th century designs. Acting as the Head of Architecture Department for Columbus Board of Education from 1891 to 1921, David Riebel's influence in Columbus' education system is seen throughout the city.

South High School is considered historically significant by Columbus Landmarks Foundation and listed on the City Of Columbus Historic Register. The nominated property is one of two Riebel buildings in Merion Village, one of three in the general south side region of the city, and the only high school on the south side designed by Riebel. Of the high schools constructed in the late 19th century construction swell, South High School is one of two remaining large-scale high schools and the most intact of the two. The 1898 North High School building has been greatly altered with multiple additions on all elevations, including a large three-story block on the building's main façade.

South High School is nominated under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its associations with the initial development of the Merion Village neighborhood and associated period of growth in the Columbus school district, in addition to Criterion C for its association with notable architect David Riebel. The period of significance begins with the building's construction in 1898 and ends in 1924 when South High School moved to a new building and Barrett Junior High was established in the nominated property.

¹³ Columbus Landmarks Foundation, 7.

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Period of Significance

As described above, the period of significance for South High School ends when the high school was relocated in 1924. Its significant associations with architect David Riebel's design and the initial development of the Merion Village neighborhood do not extend beyond that point. The 1953, 1958 and 1968 additions reflected a pragmatic, ad-hoc series of modifications done to accommodate the changing needs of the school district while making use of an existing piece of real estate. None of the alterations significantly reflect broader historical trends in the development of the neighborhood or school district, or represent significant works of architectural design.

Although Howard Dwight Smith made significant contributions to the architecture of Columbus schools, his work at South High School was very minor beyond replacement of the original stairs, and even that was done without any modification of the circulation or plan of the building's interior spaces. After assuming Riebel's role as School Architect, Smith oversaw construction of 16 new buildings between 1921 and 1929, including West High School, Neil Avenue School, Indianola Junior High School, and Fairwood Elementary School, all of which are far more representative of his work than his alterations of South High School.

Although the 1950s additions occurred during another period of rapid growth for the Columbus schools following World War II, the additions themselves are not significantly associated with the period beyond expressing the district's need for additional space in the building. There was no associated growth or development in the neighborhood surrounding South High School, which was effectively fully built-out by 1950. The main thrust of the district's post-World War II growth was construction of modern schools in newly developing areas of the city. That period is far more closely associated with such buildings, including North Linden Elementary, Indian Springs Elementary, Mohawk Elementary, and Weinland Park Elementary. A 2002 survey of historic Columbus schools and a subsequent nomination of South High School (Barrett School) to the Columbus Register of Historic Properties both recognized the building's significance for its associations with Riebel and the early growth of the Merion Village neighborhood, identifying the additions as non-contributing to the original building.¹⁴

Despite the alterations and additions to South High School, the existing building still largely reflects Riebel's 1898 design. Although the later additions to the east side obstruct views of the original building, its form and fabric were minimally altered to accommodate the new construction, and the separation of the addition from the original building left Riebel's formal composition intact. The most significant alteration of the original building was the subdivision of the assembly space on the top floor, but the original ceiling heights and finishes remain in place above non-historic dropped acoustical tiles, and with all other major aspects of the original plan intact (i.e. circulation, primary demising, functions) the change does not significantly impact the overall character of the interior.

¹⁴ Bob Leighty, *Barrett School: Columbus Register of Historic Properties Nomination*. Columbus: City of Columbus Historic Preservation Office, 3.

South High School
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Barrett, Richard E. *Columbus 1910-1970*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.

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Leighty, Bob. *Barrett School: Columbus Register of Historic Properties Nomination*. Columbus: City of Columbus Historic Preservation Office.

Lentz, Ed. *Columbus: The Story of a City*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

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Sauer, Doreen Uhas. “A History of Columbus Schools: 1812-1912.” *Teaching Columbus*: 1-13. Accessed July 22, 2014. <http://www.teachingcolumbus.org/a-history-of-columbus-schools-1812-1912.html>.

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 # _____

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_____ 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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): FRA110122

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 5.96

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 330230 | Northing: 4422789 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The nominated property consists of the west half of one parcel (Franklin County Parcel #010-066697-00), bounded by East Deshler Avenue to the north, Thurman Avenue to the south, Bruck Street to the west, and a corresponding boundary 15 feet beyond the east elevation of the existing single-story addition at the east end of the original school building.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundary includes all property historically associated with South High School during the period of significance, as well as the 1953, 1958, and 1968 additions. Subsequent expansion to the east half of the parcel (occurring after 1924) includes the baseball field and dugout structures, and is not included in the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David Trayte and Peter Ketter
organization: Sandvick Architects Inc.
street & number: 1265 W. Sixth Street
city or town: Cleveland state: Ohio zip code: 44113
e-mail: pketter@sandvickarchitects.com
telephone: 216-621-8055
date: July 2014, revised March 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

South High School
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Photo Log

Name of Property: South High School

City or Vicinity: Columbus

County: Franklin

State: Ohio

Photographer: Peter Ketter

Date Photographed: June 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0001)

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast

Photo #2 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0002)

West elevation, camera facing southeast

Photo #3 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0003)

South elevation, camera facing north

Photo #4 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0004)

South elevation, addition, camera facing north

Photo #5 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0005)

Northeast, addition, camera facing southwest

Photo #6 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0006)

East elevation, addition, camera facing west

Photo #7 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0007)

North façade, addition connection to original building, camera facing southwest

Photo #8 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0008)

Northeast oblique, addition and original building, camera facing southwest

Photo #9 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0009)

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest

Photo #10 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0010)

North façade, recessed entry detail, camera facing south

Photo #11 (OH_FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0011)

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Second floor, typical corridor, camera facing east

Photo #12 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0012)
Second floor, typical classroom interior, camera facing southwest

Photo #13 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0013)
First floor, typical stair interior, camera direction southeast

Photo #14 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0014)
Third floor, tin ceiling detail, camera direction south

Photo #15 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0015)
Second floor, typical classroom interior, camera direction northeast

Photo #16 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0016)
Basement, connection from original building into addition, camera direction east

Photo #17 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0017)
Addition, cafeteria space at north end, camera direction northeast

Photo #18 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0018)
Addition, gymnasium behind auditorium stage, camera direction south

Photo #19 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0019)
Addition, auditorium, camera direction east

Photo #20 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0020)
Addition, secondary gymnasium at south end, camera direction south

Photo #21 (OH_ FranklinCounty_SouthHighSchool_0021)
Addition, typical science laboratory classroom, camera direction south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Figure 1: South High School, Columbus City Schools, c1900.
Columbus Metropolitan Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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SOUTH HIGH STREET SCHOOL,
A Fair Type of the School Architecture of Columbus.

Figure 2: South High Street School, Columbus City Schools, 1909.
Columbus Metropolitan Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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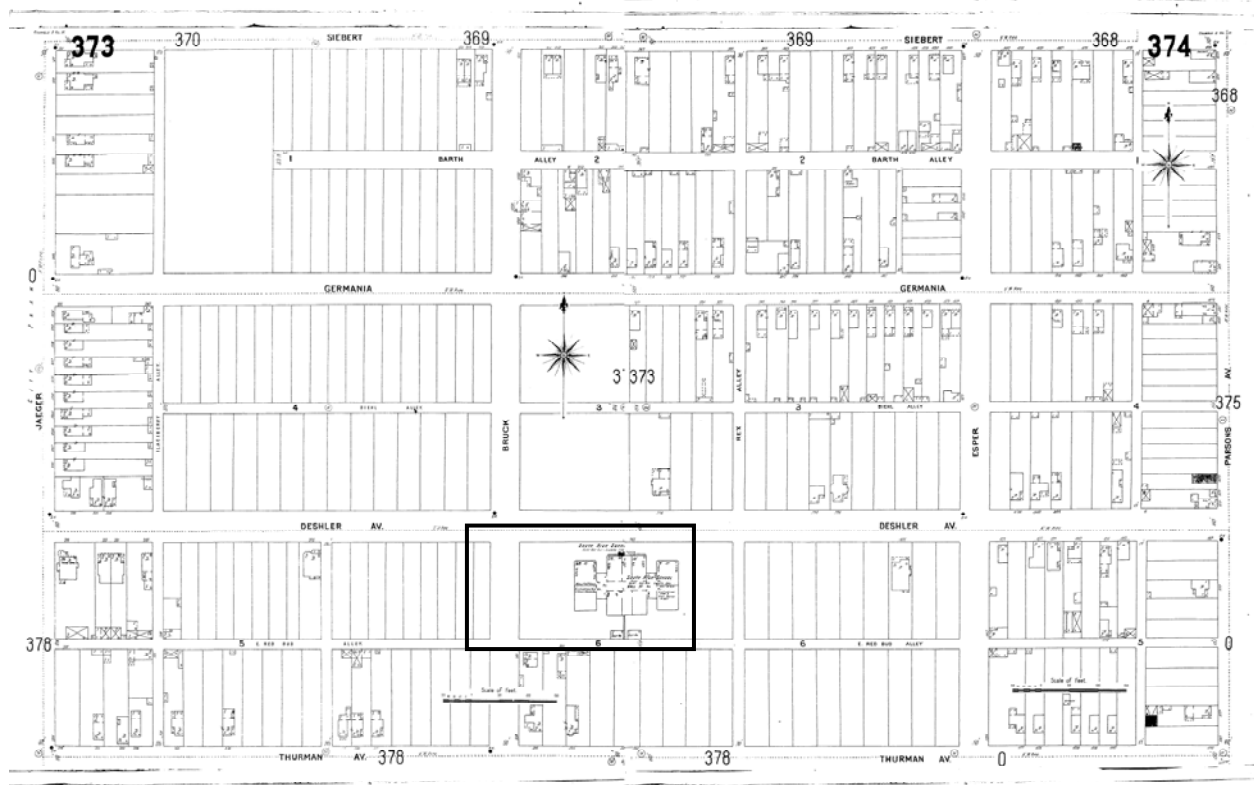


Figure 3: South High School, 1901 Sanborn Map. *Columbus Metropolitan Library*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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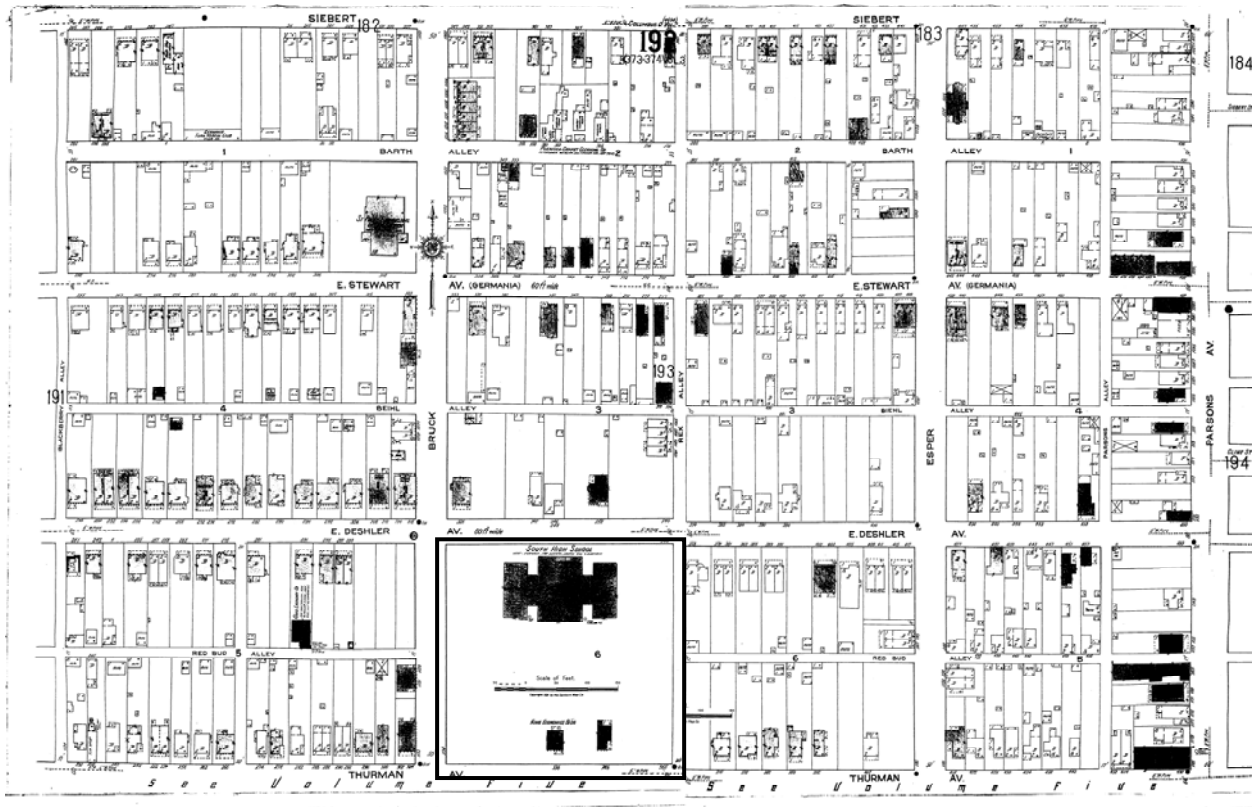


Figure 4: South High School, 1922 Sanborn Map. Columbus Metropolitan Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 8 Page 5

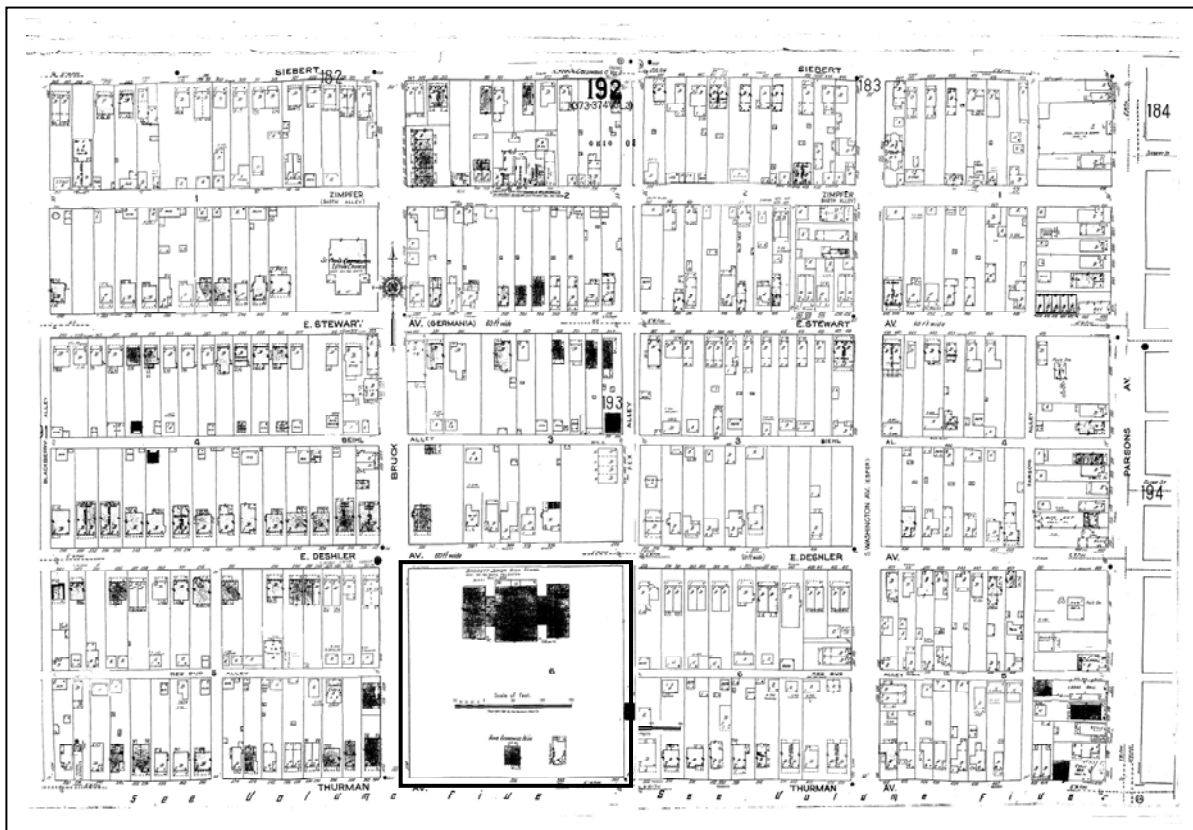


Figure 5: South High School, 1951 Sanborn Map. Columbus Metropolitan Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 8 Page 6

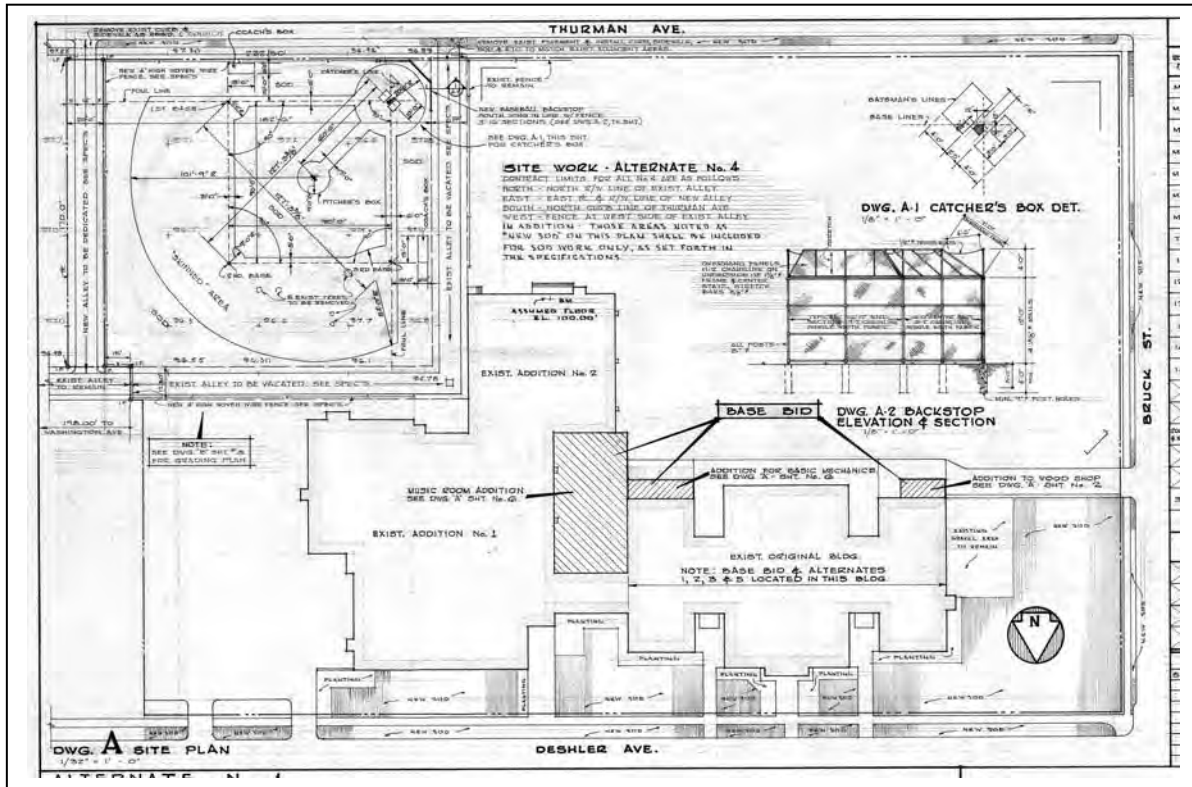
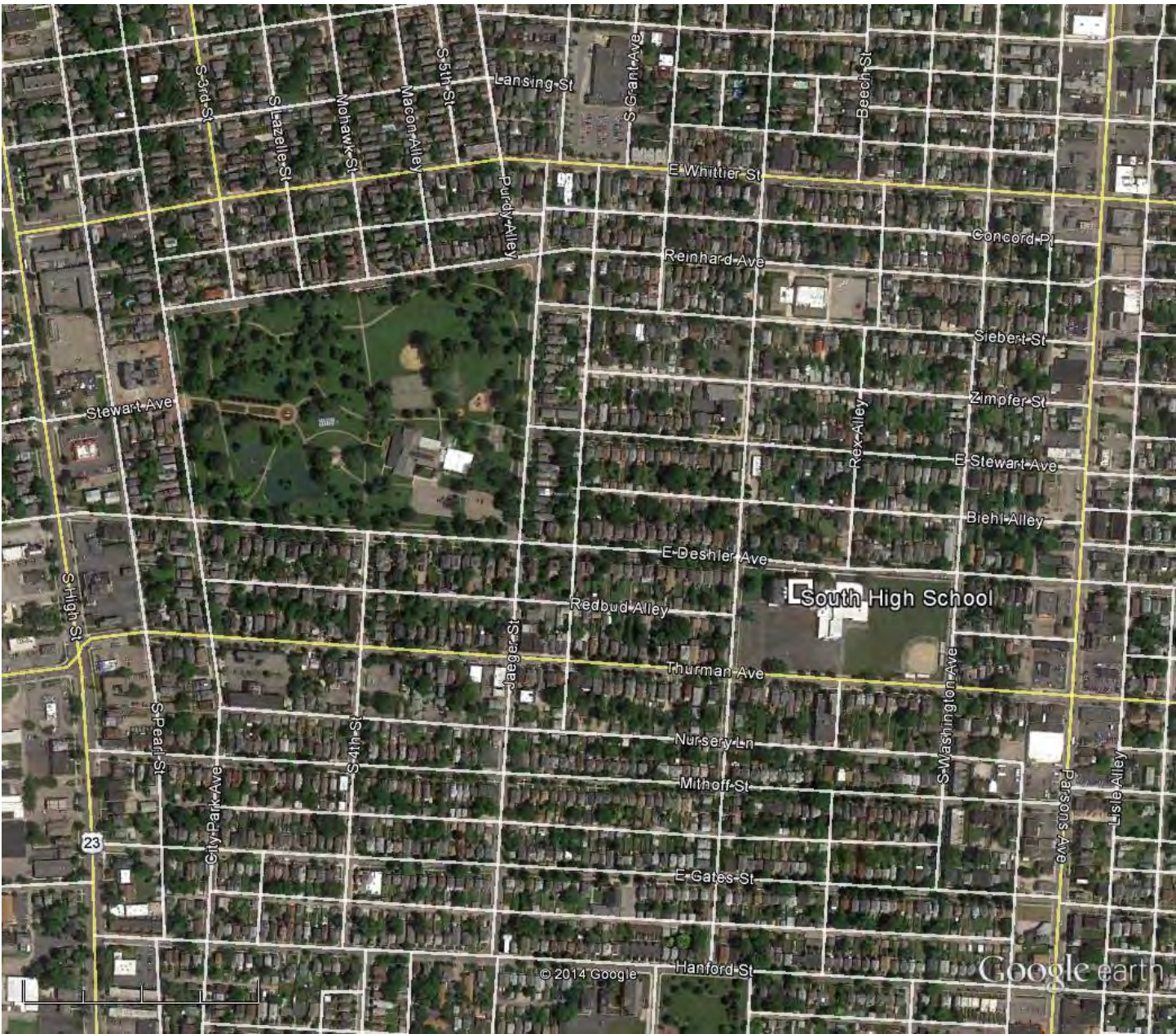


Figure 6: South High School, 1968 Site Plan. Columbus School District



South High School
Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio UTM Zone: 17 Easting: 330247 Northing: 4423016



Google earth





















BRADY BUILDING





210





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY South High School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 7/17/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/19/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/03/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/01/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000561

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9.1.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



REC'D BY OHPO MAY 0 8 2015

REC'D BY OHPO MAY 0 8 2015

REC'D BY OHPO MAY 0 8 2015

Michael Stinziano
State Representative

May 1, 2015


Susan M. Tietz
Ohio History Connection
800 E 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Ms. Tietz,

Thank you for your letter sharing with me that South High School is under consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The information is appreciated, and I look forward to learning of the outcome of the consideration.

Sincerely,


Michael Stinziano
State Representative

*Thank you for
your letter*

Committees:

Judiciary-Ranking Member
Insurance
Public Utilities

www.house.state.oh.us
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-1896
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253
FAX: 614-719-6964
Email: Rep18@ohiohouse.gov



RECEIVED 2280

JUL 17 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

July 13, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register
and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl. (2280)
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find five (5) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION

Woodland-Larchmere Commercial Historic District
Villa San Bernardo Historic District
South High School
Bon Air Flats
Mohawk Place Historic District

COUNTY

Cuyahoga
Cuyahoga
Franklin
Hamilton
Hamilton

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the South High School, Franklin County, OH nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

for Handwritten signature of Barbara Bowen in cursive script.

Lox A. Logan, Jr.
Executive Director and CEO
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio History Connection

Enclosures

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on July 15 2015
For nomination of the South High School to the National Register of
Historic Places: Franklin Co, OH

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
 Paper PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document
 Paper PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
 Paper PDF
- Photographs
 Prints TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
 Paper Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)
 Paper PDF
- Piece(s) of correspondence
 Paper PDF
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

- Please provide a substantive review of this nomination
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____
Constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: _____