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Public Schools of Memphis 1902-1915 Thematic Resources

Historic name: Peabody Elementary School Common name: Same  Address: 2086 Young Ave  Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee  Owner's name: Board of Education  Owner's address: 2597 Avery  Memphis, Tennessee 38112  Classification: Thematic  Tax map reference: See attached site  Acreage: 2.42 acres  UTM reference: Southeast Memphis Quantale/227280/3890240	map STATUS	Open to public: Yes X No Restricted X  Visible from road: Yes X No  Occupied: Yes X No  Present use: public school  Current condition: good  Alterations: 1920 classroom additions to east and west, undated rear addition, see site map  Site features: site gently slopes up from Young Avenue, large asphalt parking lot northwest, mature trees and foundation shrubs
Date of construction: 1909  Architect/builder: Jones and Furbringe  Original or previous owners: N/A  Original use: N/A  Theme/s: Primary architecture  Secondary education  Other N/A	SOURCES	Bibliographical data:  See NR nomination  Form prepared by: Lloyd Ostby  Title: Preservation Planner  Organization: Memphis Landmarks  Commission Date: May, 1982

The three-story brick building (1908) with terra cotta details in Beaux Arts in style with corner pavilions on the front (south) facade, a slightly projecting central bay with the second-story entrance reached by a flight of concrete steps, and a flat roof with a simple cornice and low parapet. The banks of 9/1 windows are framed with a wide terra cotta molding. There is an elaborate door surround at the front entrance composed of squares with high-relief rosettes and a bayleaf garland. The school is somewhat T-shape in plan with a ca. 1930 addition to the northeast corner of the building. The exterior and simple interior are relatively unaltered and retain their architectural integrity.

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The school is an excellent local example of the Beaux Arts style with an emphasis on a variety of textures and materials as well as on a monumental classicism. The building is one of eight public schools designed by Walk Jones and Max Furbringer between 1902 and 1915. The architectural office of Jones and Furbringer produced some of Memphis' most important buildings during the early twentieth century, including many notable residences such as Beverly Hall (1904, NR 7-9-79) as well as the Masonic Temple (1912) and the Shrine Building (1923, NR 3-29-79)

Along with the other eleven nominated public schools in Memphis built between 1902 and 1915 the building reflects the tremendous population growth in Memphis during this period and the great pride and importance the city and the nation placed in public education at that time.

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