## United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property	
historic name Park View School	
other names/site number Park View Elementary School / Bruce Mo	onroe at Park View
2. Location	
street & number 3570 Warder Street, NW	not for publication
city or town Washington	vicinity
state District of Columbia code DC county N/A	code001zip code _20010
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation	Act. as amended.
I hereby certify that this <b>X</b> nomination request for determination registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places a requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.	ation of eligibility meets the documentation standards
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:	onal Register Criteria. I recommend that this property
Signature of certifying official  DC State History Preservation Official  Title	Date  DC Historia Preservation Office  State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criter	
Signature of commenting official	Date
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	
entered in the National Register de	etermined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register rel	moved from the National Register
other (explain:)	Date of Action

Park View School Name of Property		Washington, D.C. County and State	
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)  private public - Local X public - State public - Federal	Category of Property (Check only one box)  X building(s) district site structure building(s) object	Number of Resources within Pro (Do not include previously listed resources in  Contributing Noncontributing  1	n the count.)
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a Public School Buildings in the 1862-1960	multiple property listing)  District of Columbia,	Number of contributing resource listed in the National Register	s previously
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
EDUCATION/School		EDUCATION/School	
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall			
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
EARLY 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/Gothic		foundation: Brick	
Revival		walls: Brick	
		roof: Asphalt Shingles	
		other: Stone/limestone	

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#### Narrative Description

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

#### **Description Summary:**

Park View School is a Tudor Gothic Revival-style building designed by Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford and constructed in two phases in 1916 and 1931. It is constructed of red brick and is characterized by its Tudor detailing and extensive use of limestone trimwork including corner quoins and window and door trim. The school generally has an H-shaped form with an auditorium wing projecting from the rear of the building on-center of the main block, and later additions at the northwest and southwest corners of the building. The school is prominently located at the center of the Park View neighborhood in northwest Washington. The school faces Warder Street and is surrounded by a lawn. The lawn, with its prominent brick retaining wall, is an important buffer between the school and the street and is integral to the façade. A recreation center—the Park View Recreation Center (formerly the Park View playground)—is across Otis Street to the north. Although built in two stages, the building maintains a consistent style and decorative pattern, giving the appearance of having been built at one time.

#### **General Description:**

#### Site:

The Park View School is prominently located on Warder Street between Newton and Otis Places, NW (Lot 830 in Square 3033). The property is bounded on the west by private residences.

The entrance block is marked by a long enclosed terrace leading from Warder Street to the entrance door. Secondary entrances are located on the north and south of the building. A parking lot is located to the west between the building and the private residences.

#### **Exterior Description:**

The building footprint is a modified H and consists of a central, two-story, recessed entry pavilion with two-story, flat-roofed classroom wings projecting to either side of it. A 1-1/2-story auditorium wing projects off of the rear (west) elevation, oncenter, and thus on the opposing side of the entry pavilion. Two, two-story wings, built in 1931, are located at the northwest and southwest corners of the original 1916 classroom wings. The original school and its later wings were built in a stylistically compatible manner, making the entire school appear as if it were constructed in one phase.

The building is a solid, red-brick structure executed in a Tudor Gothic Revival style and making extensive use of limestone as a decorative element. The building's brick walls are laid in Flemish bond, its corners are trimmed with limestone quoining, and its window and door openings are trimmed in limestone whereby the jambs are toothed with the field brick. The windows are either 4/4 (entry pavilion) or 6/6 double-hung wood replacement windows, made to match the original ones. Six-light transoms above the windows in the classroom wings provide ample light to the classrooms and to the corrridors of the connecting hyphen.

The Warder Street (front) elevation is divided into three parts: the recessed entry pavilion and the flanking classroom wings. The entry pavilion is reached via a flight of stairs leading from the sidewalk at grade to a raised and balustraded terrace level. A single-story entrance vestibule clad in limtestone and ornamented with Tudor detailing projects from the two-story pavilion, offering a pair of wood doors beneath a broad Tudor arch. The doors (recent replacements) are set into the deep reveals of the arched door surround and are more heavily glazed than the original solid wood doors. Above the door is a five-light transom, now filled with clear glass, but originally having leaded glass in a diamond pattern that terminated in an arabesque within the Tudor limestone arch. The side walls of this entry vestibule are supported by brick buttresses with limestone shoulder caps. The two-story entry pavilion rises behind and above the vestibule with five, single windows filling the second floor level, and sitting upon a base of limestone panels carved with Tudor-inspired diamond-shaped patterning in bas relief. The second-story windows are all replacements and are surmounted by tall transoms with nine lights. A limestone parapet wall rises above the transom lights and caps the central pavilion. The name of the school "PARK VIEW SCHOOL" is inscribed in a middle panel above which rises a row of carved, Tudor blind arches.

The side wings to the north and south of the entry pavilion are both large classroom blocks of brick with stone trimming. Both wings extend three bays wide on the east front and three bays deep on the exposed side walls. The front bays are

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arranged with five single windows on both the first and second stories grouped to either side of a centrally arranged pair of windows. All of these grouped windows are trimmed with limestone and feature limestone spandrel panels. These panels have raised Tudor-inspired *bas relief* ornamentation with a quatre foil detail surrounding a central shield. On the south wing, the southern end bay has an oriel window rather than a planar wall surface, giving asymmetry to the building's façade.

The north and south elevations of the north and south wings, facing Otis and Newton Streets respectively, are detailed with red brick and limestone trimwork. These elevations offer secondary entrances, located on-center of the north and south walls of the classroom wings. The entry doors, both replacements, are set within a deeply revealed limestone surround with a Tudor arch. An eight-light transom, originally filled with leaded glass, but now filled with glass, surmounts both doors. The extrados of the arch is ornamented with a carved quatrefoil *bas relief* decoration

The building is covered with a flat roof which is concealed by parapet walls with crenellation trimmed in limestone.

The auditorium is located on-center of the west (rear) wall of the building. Built as part of the original 1916 period of construction, the auditorium wing similarly features red brick walls with limestone trimming. The auditorium terminates in a gable roof which constrasts sharply with the flat roofs of the entrance pavilion and side wings.

The north and south 1931 additions are in keeping with the original building. One notable feature of the southern addition is an oriel window trimmed entirely in limestone and located on the west façade of the wing.

The Tudor Gothic character of the building originally extended to the school's copper scuppers, which also were designed with Tudor details. Today, all but one of the scuppers have been replaced, with the sole remaining example located on the Warder Street (east) side of the 1931 northern addition.

#### Interior:

As originally constructed, the Park View School included sixteen classrooms with four classrooms in both wings and on both the first and second floors. The principal entry leads into a vestibule and then to stairs leading up to the first floor or down to the lower level. At the first floor level, a long transverse corridor runs the full length of the building to the secondary entrances located in the north and side elevations. The corridor provides access to the upper gallery of the auditorium, at its center, and to the classrooms in the wings. The classrooms are arranged pin-wheel fashing with cloak closets between them. On the second story, a library occupies the area above the entrance vestibule with two corridors traversing the space and providing access to the north and south wings. The library space looks out to the roof of the single-story auditorium. The ground level provides access to the auditorium seating and to the girls' and boys' rest rooms and gyms.

The auditorium which measures 52 by 96 feet was designed to hold 700 persons. The stage is located at the west end of the room, while a balcony level is located at the east end. The auditorium is characterized by its exposed wood truss ceiling with with Tudor detailing and carvings. This dedicated auditorium with its fixed seating and Tudor truss-work is unique among Washington, D.C. elementary school designs and the school building designs of Snowden Ashford. Among the city's elementary schools, there are only two with fixed-seat auditoriums, including that of Park View School. The other fixed-seat auditorium is at the former Scott Montgomery Elementary School (1949). It is a very plain and low-built auditorium, putting it in stark contrast to Park View's exposed truss ceiling and network of open beams.

The auditorium at Park View is laid out with two side aisles separating the seating areas. The seating areas are seven seats wide on the sides and thirteen seats wide in the center and include the original Globe-Wernicke Co. seats.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Walker, Fred S. "The Park View School," in *Directory and History of Park View*, 1921.

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8. Stat	ement of Significance	
Applic (Mark "x	rable National Register Criteria " in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property onal Register listing)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE
А	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
x 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.	Period of Significance 1916-1931
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
	a Considerations " in all the boxes that apply)	Significant Person
Prope	rty is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)
А	owed by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	<u></u>
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
c	a birthplace or grave.	
D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder

#### Period of Significance (justification)

F a commemorative property.

within the past 50 years.

The Period of Significance extends from 1916 to 1931 to include the original period of construction (1916) of the school and its later expansion (1931).

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

G less than 50 years old or achieving significance

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and applicable criteria)

The Park View School was constructed in 1916 to provide a school for the Park View community. The Park View neighborhood, adjacent to the Old Soldiers' Home, originated in 1886 with the platting of a former estate known as "Whitney Close" into a residential subdivision. An explosion of rowhouse development in Park View came after 1904, and a new citizens' association formed in 1908. Development was so rapid that by 1910, the Park View Citizens' Association began demanding an elementary school for the neighborhood's 600 children, most of whom were pupils at the Hubbard and Petworth Schools. Although it took several years, the Citizens' Association won a commitment for a twelve-room school, to serve some of the then 900 neighborhood children. In 1914, Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford began drawings for a sixteen-room school that was constructed and opened in 1916. The Park View School was designed in a Tudor Gothic style favored by Ashford, particularly for the city's public school buildings.

Park View School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under the Multiple Property Document: *Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1862-1960.* The Park View School is a purpose-built public school building; it is more than 50 years old; it is in its original location; it retains integrity; and it retains original fabric and its character-defining features. Further, the building, designed by Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford is perfectly representative of the school building sub-type, "The Office of the Municipal Architect, Snowden Ashford, 1909-1921." As described in the Multiple Property document, the schools from this period were primarily designed in the Renaissance, Elizabethan, and Gothic styles. They were generally of brick construction and decorated with limestone trimming.

Park View School meets Criterion C as an outstanding example of a public school building designed in the Office of Municipal Architect. The building is an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture, lauded at the time for its expanse of windows, as well as technical improvements such as steam heat. The Tudor and Gothic styles were favorites of Snowden Ashford, evocative of traditional institutions of higher learning and thought particularly appropriate to educational use. In this, Ashford was opposed by the new U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, established in 1910. The Commission preferred classical and post-Renaissance modes, soon settling on the Colonial Revival for elementary schools beyond the city center. In this instance, Ashford's vision won out.

Further, while Park View School is consistent with the school property subtype associated with the first municipal architect, Snowden Ashford, it is unique for its 700-seat auditorium. No other elementary school before 1949 had its own dedicated auditorium, although some had gymnasium/cafeteria/auditorium spaces. And such multipurpose rooms did not compare to this soaring space, with its balcony and remarkable, complicated trusses, clearly calculated to serve as a public meeting and performance venue. Inside and out, Park View is a superior specimen of the public elementary school.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

#### Summary Paragraph:

The Park View School is eligible for listing in the National Register with Architecture and Community Planning and Development as its Areas of Significance. Park View School was built by the District of Columbia to accommodate the growing school-age population in new residential neighborhoods in the city and its construction was a result of lobbying on the part of these residents. In addition, the school was built with an auditorium intended to serve as a community center. Designed in the Tudor Gothic Revival style, the school building is an excellent example of its style and of the work of Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford. Ashford chose the Tudor Revival style, a style that was popular in school building design during the first three decades of the twentieth century, as it offered various advantages for school buildings. It was considered appropriately scholastic in character. It provided for large window surfaces, which could be made as high or wide as necessary. It was also cheaper to build than a Colonial Revival-style school because it did not require heavy cornices, balustrades, pediments, or a high pitched roof. Park View School is closely related in design to Ashford's Dunbar High School building – also constructed in 1916 (razed 1977) – as well as being reminiscent of the Cardozo (Central) High School (1916) and Eastern High School (1923) buildings. Park View School provides a distinguished example of the associated property sub-type, "The Office of the Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford, 1909-1921" as established in the Multiple Property Document for Public School buildings in the District of Columbia.

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#### **Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

History of Park View and Park View School

The Park View neighborhood can trace its organization and name to March 1, 1908, when the Park View Citizens' Association first convened at the old Whitney Avenue church. The name "Park View" was chosen due to the community's close proximity to the U.S. Soldiers' Home. The earliest known description of the boundaries for Park View is found in the first issue of the *Park View News* (1916). All known subsequent descriptions of the neighborhood agree with those published in 1916. The most clearly stated description comes from the 1917 *Constitution and By-Laws of the Park View Citizens' Association* and is provided below.

... bounded as follows: By the south side of Gresham Street on the south, Rock Creek Church Road on the north, Soldiers' Home grounds on the east, and both sides of Georgia Avenue from Gresham Street to Park Road; thence west to both sides of Park Road to New Hampshire Avenue; thence north on the west side of New Hampshire Avenue to Rock Creek Church Road.

Park View's roots date to 1886 when B.H. Warder purchased the former twenty-acre estate of Asa Whitney and subdivided the property into Whitney Close. While actual development was initially slow, the areas and subdivisions along Georgia Avenue were among the first to see single-family residences constructed. By 1904, however, a strong economy, an ever decreasing availability of near-in land, and large public green spaces such as the Soldiers' Home and the McMillan Reservoir, all set the stage for Park View to finally take off. Street after street eventually filled in with homes designed by architects including A.H Beers, N.T. Haller, and Alexander H. Sonnemann.

Most early construction projects were smaller in scale, with most builders completing rows of homes between four and ten at a time. Later developers like Harry Wardman, Edgar S. Kennedy, Herman R. Howenstein, and Lewis E. Breuninger built on a larger scale. These developers left permanent and recognizable legacies in the community. Wardman's largest contribution to Park View dates to 1909 and 1910 with homes located on Keefer Place, Lamont Street, and Georgia Avenue. Also starting in 1909 and continuing until 1917 was the even larger development by Kennedy, who constructed 162 contiguous homes in 20 separate rows between Georgia Avenue and Park Place, south of Rock Creek Church Road. Following the First World War, Howenstein filled in most of the remaining undeveloped land with 135 houses largely located on Princeton, Park, and Otis Places. Examples of Breuninger's houses can be found on the 700 block of Otis Place and date to 1917 through 1920.

Education and the need for an adequate school for area children was one of the earliest focuses of Park View residents. In 1908, the newly formed Park View Citizens' Association made a successful appeal to the U.S. Congress for funds to purchase land for a school. Funds to construct the school, however, were not as forthcoming.

Over the ensuing eight years the community persisted in its need for construction funds. Among citizens' concerns were that the lack of a school facility forced many children to remain at home which broke the truancy law. In 1912, the Park View Citizens' Association called for an appropriation of \$130,000 to build a 16-room school at the corner of Warder and Newton streets. Consistently, Congress ignored the community's appeals. While the District Commissioners had included an item for \$66,000 to erect a school in Park View in their 1910 and 1911 annual estimates sent to Congress, each time the item was stricken. To illustrate the need of the community by 1912, a school census showed Park View to have 1,193 children. Most were then attending school in Petworth or being accommodated by portable schoolhouses on the site of the proposed school.

In 1913, the community residents urged the U.S. Congress to include an estimate for a 16-room school for the area in the District of Columbia appropriations bill to better support the education of the community's 900 children, 96 of whom were being educated in two temporary portables on the site of the future school. Municipal architect Snowden Ashford had begun plans for the Park View School by September 1914 with construction scheduled to begin by April 1915. The building was originally estimated to be completed in eleven months and had a cost of \$132,000. While the Board of Education had

<sup>3</sup> "Plans for New Schools." The Washington Post, Sept. 28, 1914, p. 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Lobert, Edith, "Park View Children Want New School," The Washington Times, Aug. 31, 1913, p. 3.

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recommended that the building be named in honor of former District Commissioner Lemon G. Hine, the commissioners bowed to the community's wishes that the school be named the Park View School in honor of the patrons of the school.4

Snowden Ashford designed the building in the Tudor Revival style, a style that was popular in school building design during the first three decades of the twentieth century. The style had various advantages for school buildings. It was considered appropriately scholastic in character. It provided for large window surfaces, which could be made as high or wide as necessary. It was also cheaper to build than a Colonial revival style school because it did not require heavy cornices, balustrades, pediments, or a high pitched roof.<sup>5</sup> The overall design of the school extends to its grounds as the entire north, east, and south grounds are enclosed within matching dark brick retaining walls with cement coping; the walls are prominent at both the north and south sides of the school where they range from 9 inches to 6 feet, 10 inches high. Uniting the walls and the Warder Street entrance is a terrace surrounded by a limestone ballustrade.

When completed, the school was praised for its use of steam heat rather than hot air and for the broad window areas. Justice Frederic L. Siddons, of the District Supreme Court, Ernest L. Thurston, superintendent of the public schools, and the Rev. John Van Schaick, jr., president of the Board of Education, were guests of honor at the ceremonies officially opening the Park View School, held in part in the school's auditorium.<sup>6</sup> The building was considered unique at the time, for in addition to being a place of education it was also the "first building" designed by its architect as a Community Center where the adults of the neighborhood might gather for civic, social, and recreational activities."

The opening of the school was accompanied by a five-day community celebration held from October 16 to 20, 1916. The festivities were inaugurated with an automobile parade held on October 16th at 6:30 p.m. The parade was headed by a band and escorted by mounted officers from the Tenth Precinct. The route began on Georgia Avenue and proceeded to Columbia Road, to the Filtration Lake, to First Street, to Rhode Island Avenue, to Sixth Street, to Pennsylvania Avenue, to Fifteenth Street (behind the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury), to Pennsylvania Avenue, to Eighteenth Street, to K Street, to Sixteenth Street, to Irving Street, to Thirteenth Street, to Park Road, to New Hampshire Avenue, to Rock Creek Church Road, to Warder Street, and ended at the Park View School. The parade reportedly included 100 vehicles representing Park View residents, area merchants, Petworth residents, and the police and fire departments. It was requested that vehicles be decorated in Park View's colors of green and white. Following the parade formal addresses were made to the community in the new auditorium. Speakers included Justice Frederic L. Siddons, of the District Supreme Court, Ernest L. Thurston, superintendent of the public schools, and the Rev. John Van Schaick, jr., president of the Board of Education.8

The week-long celebrations in honor of the formal opening of the school were brought to a close in the school's auditorium. Built to accommodate 700 attendees, the auditorium was not able to hold the more than 1,000 participants in the closing ceremonies which included singing, piano and quartet performances, and speeches by District Commissioner Brownlow, Park View School principal Frances S. Fairley, and Park View Citizens' Association president John G. McGrath, who read a telegram from President Wilson's daughter, Margaret, extending warm regards and best wishes for the community on the occasion.9

#### Introduction of the Platoon School System

Total enrollment during the school's first year was 740 pupils. Attendance steadily grew each year with the new school quickly becoming overcrowded. By December 1920 attendance was up to 1,037 pupils, far exceeding the capacity of the building. To accommodate students, classes up to the fifth grade attended school on a half-day basis. Additionally, five portable school rooms were erected on the rear of the site and used from 1921 to 1930. The portables also proved inadequate in relieving Park View School's congestion. In order to address the school's overcrowding, and get children who attended on a partial basis off streets and alleys, principal Francis S. Fairley, with the school board's support, authorized the organization of the first, and only, Work, Study, Play school in the District – otherwise known as a Platoon school.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "Name School as People Ask, Commissioner Say Citizens Requested No. 175 Be Called 'Park View.'" The Washington Post, Dec. 17, 1915, p. 14.

James O. Betelle, "Architectural Styles as Applied to School Builldings, The American School Board Journal, Vol. 58 (April 1919), p.

<sup>75.
&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Begin Park View Fete." The Washington Post, Oct. 17, 1916, p. 3. <sup>7</sup> Walker, Fred S. "The Park View School," in *Directory and History of Park View*, 1921.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "Park View Automobile Parade." The Washington Post, Oct. 15, 1916, p. A20; "Begin Park View Fete." The Washington Post, Oct. 17, 1916, p. 3. <sup>9</sup> "Park View Fete Ends." The Washington Post, Oct. 21, 1916, p. 4.

The situation confronting the principal was as follows: Thirty-two classes occupied sixteen classrooms and five portables; four of these 21 rooms were used by eight classes of kindergarten, first and second grades; leaving seventeen classrooms for 24 classes. Had the Park View School continued to embrace the traditional type of school at that time, it would have had to send away seven classes to other schools that were equally overcrowded. The Platoon model allowed the school building to be fully employed without denying access to school children.<sup>10</sup>

The Platoon system, developed in the Gary, Indiana, public schools in 1906 by Superintendent William A. Wirt quickly expanded into an illustrious example of Progressive education through the 1920s. It focused on establishing two central characteristics in the elementary grades. First, because of a concern for efficiency, Wirt believed in maximizing school facilities by constant use of all classrooms, including nights (for adults), weekends, and summers. Second, he expanded the curriculum to include manual training (numerous shops for the boys and cooking for the girls, for example), recreation, nature study, daily auditorium activities (including public speaking, music lessons, and movies), and other subjects beyond traditional academic concerns. The plan theoretically organized students into two platoons. During the morning, Platoon A students occupied the specialized academic classrooms (mathematics, science, English, history, etc.), while Platoon B students were in the auditorium, shops, gardens, swimming pools, gym, or playground. They switched facilities during the afternoon. The students, busy everyday, were supposed to develop their mental, social, cultural, and physical abilities. 11

Though the Platoon school at Park View was not the first in the country, it was the only such school in the District of Columbia and considered a well-run and exemplary example of the type, prompting Alice Barrows, in charge of platoon school work for the U.S. Bureau of Education, to declare the Park View School the best Platoon school in the United States in 1926.<sup>12</sup>

By 1926, school overcrowding again made an addition necessary. Rather than adding a third story, wings were constructed to the northwest and southwest of the assembly block. These additions were completed in 1931 at an estimated cost of \$265,000. The plans are signed by R.L Kundriz, Chief of Architectural Division, H.H. Marsh, Chief of Structural Division, C.O. Bennett, Chief of Mechanical Division, and Albert L. Harris, Municipal Architect.<sup>13</sup>

By the fall of 1949, the Park View School, with a capacity of 936 students, had an enrollment of 128. This was due to the District's segregated school system being at odds with Park View's rapidly changing demographics. Park View was a school for white children amid a community increasingly becoming African American. Despite resistance from white school children's parents, Park View was transferred to use by African American children in July 1949 to save the cost of a new building.<sup>14</sup>

#### Park View School as a Community Asset

The inclusion of an auditorium—notable for its striking wooden trusses—in an elementary school is a relative anomaly in District school buildings. Auditoriums chiefly existed in high school and purpose-built junior high school buildings. Its inclusion at the Park View School owes more to its intended use as a community-wide asset than a school asset. The community aspect of the auditorium is also evident by the scale and architectural detail lavished on the space. The auditorium was designed to accommodate 700 attendees and included a small balcony and stage. The community took full advantage of the auditorium by using it for celebratory exercises, plays, orchestral performances, and the regular location for the Park View Citizens' Association meetings. The auditorium's significant wooden truss indicates that the auditorium was designed to be seen and used by the community more so than the school community. That the auditorium was designed to be a publicly accessable community space is furthered by the inclusion of fixed seating dedicating the auditorium for meetings and public gatherings and restricting it from alternative uses such as a cafeteria or gymnasium. The school would not have dedicated indoor gymnasium space until the 1931 additions were built.

The auditorium is significant for both its design and the events held there. It was the site of Washington's first community Thanksgiving on November 30, 1916. The event was attended by Dr. Philander P. Claxton, U.S. Commissioner of Education, and Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Wilson. Miss Wilson sang at the event. 1516 The United States

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Poston, Aurora M. "Platoon School Solves Lack of Space Problem." The Washington Post, Jan. 11, 1925, p. AU6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Gary Schools." Available at: <a href="http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/2002/Gary-Schools.html">http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/2002/Gary-Schools.html</a>.

<sup>12 &</sup>quot;Park View School Cited as Best of Type in U.S." The Washington Post, Feb. 25, 1926, p. 9.

<sup>13 &</sup>quot;President Urges Giving \$1,674,000 More to District." The Washington Post, Jan. 18, 1929, p. 20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Carper, Elsie. "Park View School Shift to Use By Negroes Asked by Corning." The Washington Post, Feb. 1, 1949, p. 1.

<sup>15 &</sup>quot;Miss Wilson to Sing: Praises Community Thanksgiving Celebration of Park View Citizens." The Washington Post, Nov. 22, 1916, p.

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Bureau of Education, noting the significance of the event, published the following in an issue of their bulletin: "Washington's notable exemplification of the community center idea – the community forum of Park View School – recently took another step in advance by holding a community Thanksgiving celebration in imitation of the original community Thanksgiving in New England 300 years ago." <sup>17</sup>

The auditorium provided the setting on June 19, 1917, for the advancement of District suffrage. That date was the first time since the District had been stripped of voting rights in 1874 that citizens of the District of Columbia were given the opportunity to vote for a government official. The official was known as a community secretary and was paid a salary by the District of Columbia and administrated all community affairs under the Park View Citizens' Association. The Secretary was accountable to the Board of Education for the enforcement of its regulations when community meetings were held in the Park View School.

The election took place at 8 o'clock in the evening in the Park View School. Adults of both sexes who lived in the following section of the city were eligible to vote:

All citizens that lived within the area bordered [by] the south side of Gresham street to [the] north side of Rock Creek Church road, on the east side by the Soldiers' Home grounds, both sides of Georgia avenue from Gresham street to Park road, then north on the west side of New Hampshire avenue to Rock Creek Church road were eligible to vote. Additionally, parents of children attending the Park View School were also allowed to vote. Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Wilson, was a guest of honor.

In the election, John G. McGrath won, becoming the community secretary of Park View. As part of the celebrations surrounding this historic vote, Representative M. Clyde Kelly, author of the bill to mobilize the nation through community center use of public schools, delivered the principal address.<sup>1819</sup>

On June 6, 1963, Attorney General Robert Kennedy visited Cardozo High School and Park View Elementary School delivering the message that children needed to stay in school and that their hope for future jobs was through education. While at Park View Elementary, Kennedy was seated with students on the auditorium's stage, from which he led an audience participation quiz on history. Among the questions Kennedy was asked was "what do you do about Alabama?" referencing Governor George Wallace's action blocking the enrollment of African American students at the University of Alabama in June 1963.<sup>20</sup>

In May 1917 the Park View Citizens' Association under the leadership of President John G. McGrath initiated the creation of a community food cooperative in the basement of the school. The cooperative was an effective cudgel in the fight against the high cost of living. By July 1919 the Board of Education had decided to discontinue the use of public schools for cooperative buying of foods, but agreed to allow schools to continue selling army supplies. Inasmuch as no formal action had been taken by the Board of Education, the community center organization took no steps to put an end to the selling of foods in schoolhouse stores. Under the direction of John G. McGrath, the Park View School was the first in the District to work out community cooperative buying on a big scale. Commodities were received in wholesale lots and sold to the consumers at a saving ranging from 15 to 25 per cent.<sup>21</sup>

A post office was installed in the basement of Park View School in 1918. It was officially dedicated on July 4, 1918, following an address by First Assistant Postmaster General, John C. Koons. This was the first known instance that such a facility had been included in a school building in Washington, D.C.<sup>22</sup>

#### Architect of the School Building: Snowden Ashford

At the time the Park View School building was designed and constructed, Snowden Ashford was Municipal Architect for the District of Columbia. Ashford held the position from 1909 to 1921. Earlier, from 1895 to 1909, he had served as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> "Park View Holds Civic Celebration, First Community Observance of Thanksgiving Day in District." *The Washington Times*, Nov. 30, 1916, p. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> "Park View Fete Cite: Thanksgiving Community Event Recognized in U.S. Bulleting." The Washington Times, Dec. 15, 1916, p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> "J.G. M'Grath Elected." The Washington Post, June 20, 1917, p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Lawrence, David. "Our Public Schools and Suffrage." *The Washington Times*, July 12, 1917, editorial page.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> MacPherson, Myra. "Robert Kennedy Goes Back to School Again." *The Evening Star*, June 7, 1963.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> "Citizens May Buy Together: park View Discusses Cooperative Action to Meet High Cost of Living." *The Washington Post*, May 9, 1917, p. 4.; "Get Food Sale Sites." *The Washington Post*, July 9, 1919, p. 4.; "Interior of the Park View Community Store." *The Washington Times*, Sept. 19, 1919, Section 2, p. 1.; "Washington Community Market Helps to Reduce the H.C.L." *The Commercial Car Journal*, Vol.17, no.2 (April 15, 1919), p. 63.
<sup>22</sup> "Koons Speaks at Park View." *The Washington Post*, July 5, 1918, p. 12.

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Assistant Inspector and Inspector of Buildings, where he had overseen municipal architecture. Ashford favored Elizabethan and Collegiate Gothic styles for the school buildings he designed. Ashford's plans for the Park View School closely resemble those of his Dunbar High School (1916) but on a smaller scale.

Ashford was born in Washington, D.C., January 1, 1866. He was the eldest son of Mahlon Ashford, the president of the first title insurance company in the District. Ashford was educated at Rittenhouse Academy and at the Christian Brothers Roman Catholic School. He prepared for college at Lehigh Preparatory School in Bethlehem, Pa., and passed examinations for a course in civil engineering at Lehigh University. He was afterward graduated from LaFayette College, having prepared for the profession of architect.

After leaving LaFayette, Ashford entered the office of A. B. Mullett, who formerly had been supervising architect of the United States Treasury. Later, Ashford was associated with John L. Smithmeyer, architect of the Library of Congress, and for two years he worked on plans for the library. He entered the District service in 1895, when he was appointed assistant inspector of buildings. Ashford revised the building regulations of the city in 1900, and introduced a card system and other methods to increase the efficiency of the inspector's office. He prepared the plans and specifications for all school houses, engine houses and other District buildings, until such work was entrusted to architects of the city and the buildings were erected under his supervision.

In 1901, Ashford was promoted to the position of inspector of buildings. In the quarter of a century that he served in the District government, he drew the plans for 75 school buildings in the city. He possessed definite ideas as to appropriate styles for municipal public buildings and placed a strong Elizabethan and Gothic stamp on the public school buildings he designed. His design philosophy meshed perfectly with that of William B. Ittner of Saint Louis, who was commissioned to design Central High School. Ittner's adaptation of the Collegiate Gothic style to Central High School likely inspired Ashford's own designs for Dunbar Senior High School (now demolished) and Park View School, both completed in 1916, and for Eastern High School, completed in 1923. Ashford persisted in the use of the Collegiate Gothic in Eastern High School despite the growing public popularity of the Colonial Revival style and the urging of the Eastern Alumni Association to abandon the "Anheuser-Busch Gothic" style.<sup>23</sup>

Snowden Ashford is associated with the following buildings designated as D.C. Historic Landmarks:

- Chemical Engine No. 5 (Engine Co. No. 25; Congress Heights Firehouse), 3203 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., SE (1902), architect
- Eastern Market (and Interiors), North and South Halls (1908), architect.
- Engine Company No. 20 (Tenleytown Firehouse), addition (1913), architect.
- Engine Company No. 23 (Foggy Bottom Firehouse), 1910, collaboration with Hornblower & Marshall
- Jesse Reno School, 4820 Howard Street, NW (1903), architect.
- Military Road School, 1375 Missouri Avenue, NW (1911-12), architect.
- Miner Building, Howard University, 2565 Georgia Avenue, NW, supervising architect.
- Old Engine Company No. 12 (Eckington Firehouse) (1896-97), architect.
- Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, First & N Streets, NW (1916, razed 1977), architect.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> "Snowden Ashford, Long Civic Leader, Dead in Hospital." *The Washington Post*, Jan. 27, 1927, p. 9.; "Eastern Senior High School," in, Scott, Pamela and Antoinette J. Lee. *Buildings of the District of Columbia*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Park View School	Washington, D.C.		
Name of Property	Property County and State		
9. Major Bibliographical References			
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing	this form on one or more continuation sheets)		
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:		
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 #	X State Historic Preservation Office X Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other		
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Charles Sumner School Museum and Name of repository: Archives		
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Published Sources			
Beauchamp, Tanya Edwards, "Public School Buildings of Wash Dept of Planning, Washington DC)	ington DC, 1862-1960" (Historical Preservation Office,		
Betelle, James O., "Architectural Styles as Applied to School Bu 4 (April 1919), pp. 25-28, 75-76.	ıildings." The American School Board Journal, Vol. 58, no.		
Boese, Kent C., with Lauri Hafvenstein. Park View. (Charleston	, S.C.: Arcadia, 2011).		
Park View Citizens' Association. Directory and History of Park V	/iew, 1921. (Historical Society of Washington, DC).		
"Washington Community Market Helps to Reduce the H.C.L." T p. 63.	he Commercial Car Journal, Vol.17, no.2 (April 15, 1919),		
Primary Sources			
DC Permits to Build Washington Evening Star Washington Post Board of Education minutes			
DCPS "Public School Buildings – Past and Present" (unpublishe (Sumner School Museuam and Archives Vertical Files)	ed ms)		
Original plans, (dated May 6, 1915; revised June 10, 1915) and	later additions (dated Sept. 14, 1929)		
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

#### **Additional Documentation**

city or town Washington

e-mail

Submit the following items with the completed form:

kent.boese@anc.dc.gov

- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

zip code 20010

state D.C.

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

#### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Park View School

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: N/A

**Photographer** 

State: DC

Photos 1-10: Angeliki Kourelis Photos 11-12: Kent Boese Photos 13-17: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: August 2012 and February 2013

#### Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- View looking west from Warder Street showing east elevation 1 of 17
- View looking west from Warder Street showing Entry Pavilion
   of 17
- 3) View looking northwest from Warder and Newtown Street showing south classroom wing and 1931 south addition 3 of 17
- 4) View looking northwest showing south elevation of south classroom wing and south and east elevations of 1931 south addition 4 of 17
- View looking south from Otis Street at north façade of north classroom wing
   of 17
- View of entry pavilion on east façade
   6 of 17
- 7) Detail of entry, east facade 7 of 17
- 8) Detail of parapet on entry pavilion, east elevation 8 of 17
- 9) View from northwest looking southeasterly showing west elevation with auditorium wing in the center 9 of 17
- 10) View from the southeast looking northwesterly showing west elevation with auditorium wing in the center 10 of 17
- 11) View from the southwest looking northeast at the auditorium wing
- Detail of surviving copper downspout scupper
   of 17
- 13) Interior view of typical classroom (under renovation) 13 of 17
- 14) Interior view of main stair

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14 of 17

- 15) Interior view of auditorium looking toward the stage
- 16) Interior view of auditorium looking toward the balcony
- 17) Detail of auditorium seating

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

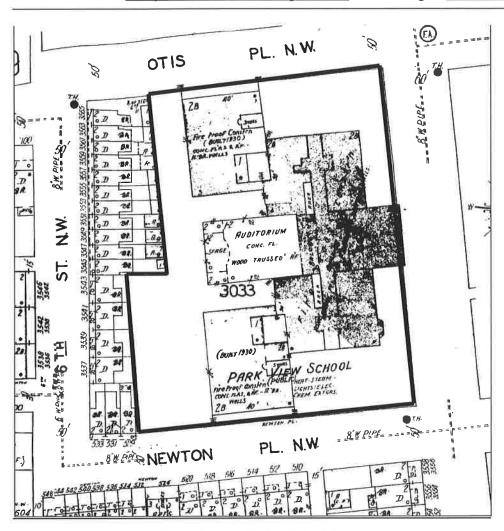
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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County and State
Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C.:
1862-1960
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Historic Images

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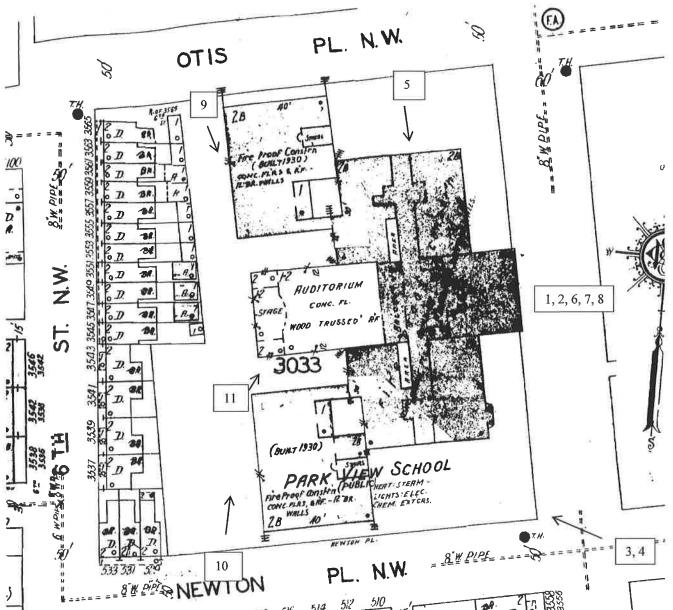
Site Plan of Park View School showing National Register boundaries (From Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1999)

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number Maps and Historic Images

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	Washington, D.C.
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Public Scho	ool Buildings of Washington, D.C.:
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Site Plan/Key to Photos

OMB No. 1024-0018

### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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	ngs of Washington, D.C.; 62-1960
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Park View School, ca. 1921 (From the Collection of Kent Boese, ANC Commissioner District of Columbia)



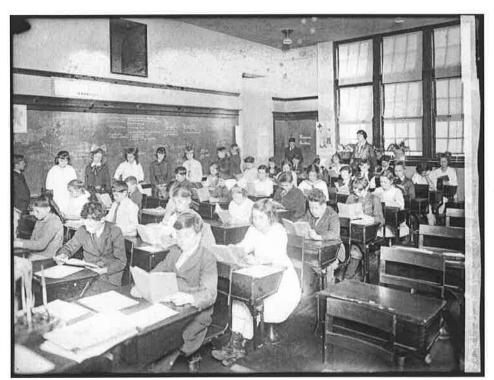
West façade of school showing auditorium and construction of portable classrooms ca. 1919 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

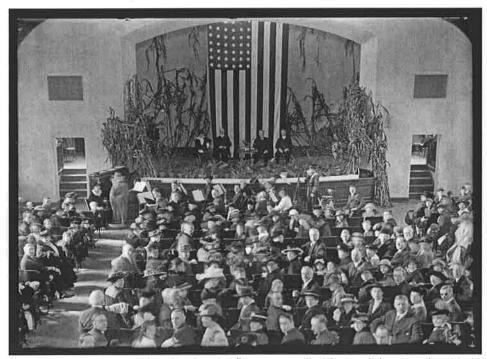
Section number Maps and Historic Images

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Park View School classroom ca. 1920 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)



Park View School auditorium hosting the first community Thanksgiving, October 30, 1916 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Candidates for the position of community secretary with Margaret Wilson (second from left) on the stage of the Park View School auditorium, June 19, 1917 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)



Interior of the Park View Community Store, basement of the Park View School, 1919

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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(Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)



John G. McGrath in front of Park View Post Office, located in basement of Park View School, 1918 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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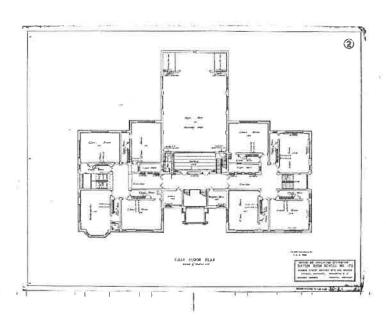
Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in front of Park View School, June 6, 1963. Original entry doors visible in background. (MLK Washingtoniana Collection, Washington Star Photograph Collection)

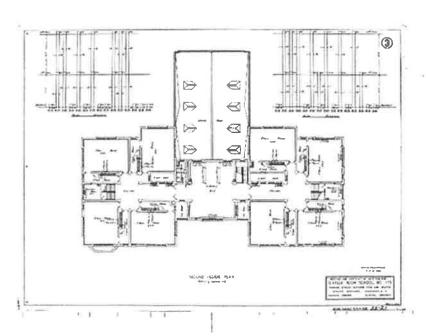
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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First and Second Floor Plans, Snowden Ashford, Municipal Architect, 1915



































## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Park View School NAME:
MULTIPLE Public School Buildings of Washington, DC MPS NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia
DATE RECEIVED: 3/15/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/10/13 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/25/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/01/13 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000213
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
$\sqrt{\text{ACCEPT}}$ RETURN REJECT $\frac{9 \cdot l \cdot 13}{\text{DATE}}$ DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in The National Register of Historic Places
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE
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.