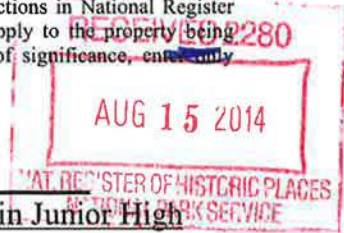


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

818

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School

Other names/site number: West School (Dillon Graded School), J.V. Martin Junior High School (Dillon Public School)

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 405 West Washington Street

City or town: Dillon State: SC County: Dillon

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

<u>Elizabeth M. Johnson</u>	<u>8/6/2014</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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:)

Jose Edison H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9.30.14
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

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>17</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant and Education/education-related

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian
Other: Italianate;
Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals
Other: Classical Revival
Modern Movement

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Wood, Cast Concrete, Steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School complex consists of three contributing buildings: the 1896 Dillon Graded School (later named West School), the 1936 auditorium and gymnasium additions, and the cafeteria/classroom addition built in 1957. There is one non-contributing building on site, the 1983 classroom building built following a fire at the 1912 Dillon Public School that destroyed the original central portion of the school. There are also seventeen non-contributing structures: fifteen modular classrooms, a small brick storage building, and a communications tower. This school complex is located approximately two blocks from Main Street in the City of Dillon, South Carolina, and is surrounded by infill residential housing dating from the 1920s through the 1960s. Dillon Graded School was constructed in 1896 of red brick in the Italianate style. The later 1936 additions of the gymnasium and auditorium were paid for by New Deal funds and designed by Henry Dudley Harrall of Bennettsville, S.C. In 1957, a large cafeteria and classroom wing designed by James and DuRant of Sumter, S.C. was added to the gymnasium side of the school.

Narrative Description

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The Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School complex is located in the City of Dillon, S.C. It is bounded by West Washington Street, North 3rd Avenue (Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard), and West Cleveland Street. The complex consists of three contributing buildings, one non-contributing building, and seventeen non-contributing structures.

Contributing Structures

1. Dillon Graded School (1896)

Dillon Graded School, now known as West School, was originally constructed in 1896 and is a contributing building. The City of Dillon was in its infancy as it was incorporated a few years earlier in December of 1888. Eager to prove the town's progressive nature and dedication to education, local citizens banded together to form the Dillon Graded School.

Located to the rear of the property, Dillon Graded School is constructed of red brick and in the Italianate style. The school is two stories and features a hipped roof and bell tower. The main entrance of the building features a door recessed into an arched porch. Once inside, a small vestibule stands before giving way to a hallway with one classroom on either side. This wide corridor terminates into a horizontal hallway that runs the length of the building and features eight classrooms, two modern bathrooms, a closet, and two small multipurpose rooms. There are additional entrances on either end of this horizontal hallway.

Two staircases, one in the entrance vestibule and one at the end of the entrance hallway (where it meets the horizontal corridor) lead upstairs to an additional six classrooms and a seventh room that may have served as an early auditorium for Dillon Public School after its construction in 1912. It appears that the staircase from the downstairs vestibule was the main stair as the stair hall is a large, light filled space with many windows and a large landing at top leading into a room below the third story bell tower and the main hall where the remaining classrooms are located. The bell tower room appears to have been the original way into the tower though a lowered ceiling obscures the hatch that would have given access to that area. The bell is no longer in the tower; a local lore indicates that the bell fell out of the tower and crushed a passing student sometime in the middle of the 20th century.

This building is now being maintained as offices for the school district. The while the main floor is fairly intact and is indicative of the original layout, the upstairs floor has been chopped into multiple offices. There is some indication that the temporary auditorium space was on the second floor at one time. The exterior has been largely untouched though at some time the red brick was white washed. The building contains its original windows.

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2. Public School Auditorium and Gymnasium (1936)

In 1936, the school district received Public Works Administration (PWA) funds to construct two additional wings onto Dillon Public School. Both of these buildings are intact and are contributing to this nomination. Designed by Henry Dudley Harrall, the brick wings were symmetrical to the main building of the Public School, and attached by brick hallways, each with its own double door entrance topped with a graceful fanlight and sidelights. The west wing housed a large auditorium and the east wing contained a gymnasium. The design mimicked the earlier 1912 building with the parapets along the roof line and four classical pilasters along the front exterior, though this design was more streamlined than its predecessor.

The wings differ slightly in that their entrances are not identical. Though both placed on the front façade, the auditorium's entrance consists of two single doors recessed into double, single brick arches. The gymnasium's entrance is a double door with a fanlight. Large arched windows line the exterior walls of both wings, with the east wing (the auditorium) looking out to Cleveland Street, and the west wing (the gymnasium) looking out to West Washington Street. Both wings contain first floor and second floor classrooms. The auditorium seats 1,046 people on two levels and features a 60 foot wide stage. A projection room is located on the second floor and can be accessed by a ladder through the east balcony vestibule. The gymnasium holds 500 people on its wooden benches and has a 45 by 90 foot basketball floor.¹ Double flight staircases are used to access the upper floor in the gym; one staircase has a mid-floor landing with a viewing area overlooking the gymnasium floor. The gymnasium is in good condition, as is the cafeteria and classroom wing that adjoins it. This building is still used for school district offices and training. Original windows are in still intact.

3. Cafeteria and Classroom Addition (1957)

More additions to the school were made in 1957. The firm of James and DuRant, of Sumter, South Carolina, were chosen to design a cafeteria addition off the rear of the gymnasium wing. The brick, one story addition is mid-century modern in design and features rows of high, small windows and a flat roof. The addition contains a cafeteria, a band room, woodshop, classrooms, and offices for the school district.

Non-Contributing Structures

A. J.V Martin Junior High School (1983)

J.V. Martin Junior High School is a brick building with white wooden pilasters. The building is located between the 1936 auditorium and gymnasium additions. It was placed there after a 1980

¹ Durwood T. Stokes, *The History of Dillon County, South Carolina* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1978), 309.

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fire destroyed the original 1912 Dillon Public School building. This original building was constructed in the decade following the construction of the Dillon Graded School. It was designed by Sayre & Baldwin of Anderson, South Carolina.

The J.V. Martin School complex was abandoned after the construction of a new junior high school in 2012. The auditorium is currently deserted; graffiti lines the walls of the old classrooms in front of the building, and books are strewn about the floors along with old office furniture. Some of the original upstairs windows have been bricked up.

B-Q. Fifteen (15) Modular Classroom Buildings

Still located on the rear of the property are fifteen modular classroom buildings. Due to overcrowding and the poor conditions of the school buildings, these classrooms were brought on site in the 1990s. They are metal framed and clad rectangular buildings with removable underpenning. Each has a wooden staircase and/or ramp for handicapped access.

R. Brick Storage Building

Located to the rear of the 1983 school is a small brick storage building that appears to be of the same vintage as the 1983 school.

S. Communications Tower

Located to the rear of the 1936 Gymnasium building and to left of the 1957 modern cafeteria addition is a triangular communications tower that is approximately 80 feet tall.

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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

Education

Period of Significance

1896-1957

Significant Dates

1896, 1936, 1957

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

1936 Auditorium and Gymnasium - Henry Dudley Harrall

1957 Cafeteria Addition – James and Durant

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School complex, located in Dillon County, is eligible for listing under criteria A in the area of significance for education and criteria C in the area of significance of architecture. The complex consists of four buildings each with different styles of architecture and corresponding periods of significance, and represents the evolution of the school architecture in Dillon County, as well as the locality's commitment to education through the years. Of particular note is the fact that several schools were continuously placed on this one plot of land, whereas other county schools were successively abandoned and re-built at other locations. The period of significance is 1896, when the first school was built, to 1957 when the cafeteria addition was built. During this time period, numerous schools were built in Dillon County, showing that the county was eager to be taken seriously after it split from Marion County in 1910. The oldest building on the site is West School, or Dillon Graded School as it was known as during its construction in 1896, and is a unique example of an Italianate style school building. The second and third buildings eligible for listing are the auditorium and gymnasium wings constructed in 1936 and are excellent examples of Depression era Classical Revival architecture. The brick wings were designed by Henry Dudley Harrall, a well known local architect based out of Bennettsville, South Carolina. The final building on the site is the cafeteria and classroom addition to the gymnasium constructed in 1957 in the Modern style and designed by James and Durant of Sumter, South Carolina. The low flat roof and rectangular layout of the building typify the Modern style for schools in South Carolina.

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

ARCHITECTURE

The many school buildings constructed by the City of Dillon on this property demonstrate the community's commitment to education. These buildings were designed in a variety of styles: Italianate, Classical Revival, and Modern. The high-style architecture of these buildings is unique given Dillon's isolation from large cities.

Beginning in 1894, the City of Dillon was a growing town. Eager to properly educate their children, the town constructed a three room frame building to house a school during the weekdays and church services and activities at the week's end. Approximately 100 children

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attended this school, and there were three teachers on staff.² As population continued to grow, it soon became apparent that the school was woefully inadequate.

Dillon Graded School (1896)

When the Dillon Graded School was constructed in 1896, it was the third in a long line of schools built for the burgeoning town. The contributing two story, brick building was constructed in the Italianate style by an unknown builder, and must have been a credit to the small town newly founded just years before in 1888. The high style of the building would have been unique to a town with few large municipal buildings. Indeed, few buildings existed; photos from the period show the school in a field like setting despite its location a scant two blocks from what would become the town's main commercial district. Additionally, there are few existing Italianate style school buildings in the State of South Carolina. Dillon Graded represents an important time period in architecture in the state and shows that even a small, isolated town could be on the cutting edge of design. It also is representative of the prevailing ideologies of school design at the time: essentially large buildings constructed with an eye for placing as many students as possible in its classrooms.³

Dillon Public School (1912)—no longer extant

In the summer of 1912, construction of the Dillon Public School began and upon completion the two story brick building was considered one the best plants in the state. This school building was meant to create more space for students as the population had outgrown the original 1896 Dillon Graded School building. Designed in the Classical Revival style, it was a two story brick building and reflected the shift in ideology regarding educational facilities. Light and ventilation were key; one treatise on school construction suggested that 40 to 50% of wall space should feature windows.⁴ Thus Dillon Public School had large, nine-over-nine windows. The architect of record was the firm of Sayre & Baldwin of Anderson, South Carolina. Christopher Gadsden Sayre was a native of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and had graduated from South Carolina College before going on to work with W.B. Smith Whaley & Co. in 1902.⁵ He joined partner James J. Baldwin in 1910 and together they ran a firm for four years. Baldwin hailed from Ridge Springs, South Carolina and had graduated from the University of South Carolina before going on to study under two accomplished architects: Frank Milburn of Columbia, South Carolina and Reuben Harrison Hunt of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Sayre & Baldwin specialized in school buildings, and their designs are attributed to schools in Anderson, Fountain Inn, Gaffney, and

² "The Dillon Schools Began With A One-Room Log Cabin," *Dillon Herald*, February 29, 2000.

³ Baker, Lindsay, "A History of School Design and its Indoor Environmental Standards, 1900 to Today" (Washington, DC: National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities), 5.

⁴ Baker, 7.

⁵ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects: 1885-1935* (Montgomery, Alabama: New South Architectural Press, 1992), 151.

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Aiken, South Carolina.⁶ When the new building was completed, it was dedicated on May 5, 1913 with great fanfare and pride. The school cost a total of \$30,000.⁷ This 1912 building was destroyed by fire in 1980 and was replaced by a new facility in 1983, which is the building that remains on the complex today. This replacement building is today flanked by the auditorium and gymnasium additions that were constructed in 1936.

Auditorium and Gymnasium (1936)

The Great Depression took a heavy toll on the Dillon community. Fortunately, PWA funds were sent to Dillon were spent on a much needed addition to the Dillon Public School. Created in 1933 by the National Industrial Recovery Act, these funds were meant to be spent of the construction of public works facilities in order to provide employment, stimulate the economy, and contribute to revival of American industry.⁸ In fact, 70% of new schools buildings during this time were a result of PWA funding.⁹ The project was listed as “PWA Project Docket No. 1007.” A two story brick building was added to either side of the main public school building. Both are contributing buildings. Though these buildings were built to imitate the Classical Revival style of the main school, the details were somewhat stripped down in comparison to the main school’s original design. Henry Dudley Harrall, a well respected architect in the neighboring town of Bennettsville, was hired to design the two wings. Harrall was a leading member of the South Carolina chapter of the American Institute of Architects and had completed numerous projects in the eastern part of the state. In fact, he designed several educational buildings in neighboring Lee County, including Bishopville High School (1936) and Dennis High School (1936).¹⁰

Harrall operated his practice out of Bennettsville, South Carolina in Marlboro County. Born in Greenville, South Carolina in 1878, he attended the South Carolina Military Academy (the Citadel) in Charleston, South Carolina before becoming a draftsman with Army Corps of Engineers in North Carolina, and later with W.B. Smith Whaley & Company in Columbia, South Carolina.¹¹ In 1907, he moved to Boston and became the supervisor of construction for Charles T. Main.¹² He seemed to specialize in public buildings; not only did he design many schools, he also designed the Bennettsville Presbyterian Church (1906), Main Street Methodist Church in Greenwood, South Carolina (1917), and the Marlboro County Hospital (1928). Following his

⁶ Wells and Dalton, *South*, 5.

⁷ Wells and Dalton, *South*, 154.

⁸ “Public Works Administration”, <http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/pwa.cfm>.

⁹ Baker, 8.

¹⁰ John H. Tucker, “Bishopville High School” (National Register Nomination, National Park Service, 2004);

“Dennis High School” (National Register Nomination, National Park Service, 2005).

¹¹ Wells and Dalton, *South*, 64.

¹² *American Architects Directory*, (New Providence, New Jersey, R.R. Bowker, 1956), 229.

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work at Dillon, he went on to design the Lee County Memorial Hospital in 1951. He also spearheaded a major renovation of the Marlboro County Courthouse in 1952.¹³

The two brick wings featured an auditorium and a gymnasium, and were most likely the result of the new “functionalist” movement in school design. Much emphasis was put on school buildings being easy to circulate through and physical education was also beginning to become important.¹⁴ The wings featured white pilasters to match those on the main building. Parapets decorated the roofline of each wing, though their design reflected the more streamlined mentality overtaking architecture at the time. The class of 1937 was the first to graduate in the brand new auditorium. The blue velvet draperies and stage curtains decorated the space; the same stage curtains are still hanging in the present day auditorium.¹⁵ A grand ceremony on November 20, 1913 featured local chorale groups and a speech by the district’s superintendent, J.O. Martin.¹⁶

Cafeteria and Classroom Addition (1957)

By 1947, 335 students attended Dillon Public School. The following year, 12th grade became mandatory for graduation, and with the extra year added to the curriculum, the need for larger facilities once again became apparent. The conclusion of World War II had resulted in a “baby boom” and as a result the Dillon Public School had grown to the point that an additional wing was needed. This contributing building was built in 1957. Constructed to the rear of the 1936 gymnasium, the building evoked the modern aesthetic in its design. This addition reflects an important shift in the design of schools following World War II. Gone were the multi-storied, impressive buildings from earlier in the century. Those buildings were hard to add on to and required fire escapes. It was thought that the one story school design allowed for more light due to “window walls” or by orienting interior corridors outside for natural light and air.¹⁷ Schools built during this time were also more economical to build and used modern, lightweight materials. Even though the life expectancy of these new buildings was not what their predecessors had been the prevailing argument was that schools needed to be re-built periodically anyway.¹⁸

The one story brick addition at Dillon Public School featured a flat roof and rows of small, metal framed windows placed high on the wall called “ribbon windows.” While the interior corridors were not open to fresh air, walls of windows looked out onto the school’s interior courtyard and allowed for access as well. The architecture firm of record was James and DuRant of Sumter,

¹³ Wells and Dalton, *South*, 64-65.

¹⁴ Baker, 8.

¹⁵ *Dillon Herald*, February 29, 2000.

¹⁶ “Pretty Exercises Open New Auditorium,” *Dillon Herald*, November 21, 1936.

¹⁷ “South Carolina’s Equalization Schools”, <http://www.scequalizationschools.org/equalization-schools.html>, last accessed April 17, 2014.

¹⁸ Baker, 11.

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South Carolina. Eugene DuRant was from was Elliott, South Carolina and had graduated from Clemson A&M University before becoming a part of the organization of the firm in 1938.¹⁹ Robert Shelton James graduated from Clemson A&M as well and joined the firm in 1949 after working in Asheville, North Carolina, and also for Lafaye, Lafaye, & Fair of Columbia.²⁰ They designed additional classrooms, a band room, district offices, and a cafeteria in this wing. The cafeteria addition ended the need for the lunch bar that had been previously housed in the basement of the gymnasium. According to an October 4, 1957 article in the *Dillon Herald*, an open house was held so public could view the new additions as well as “see the extent of the renovations to the old plant.” There is no mention as to what these renovations entailed.

In 1970, the school was renamed J.V. Martin Junior High School after a long time school superintendent. A decade later in 1980, the main 1912 building burned to the ground. The 1936 and 1957 additions were salvaged and later a replacement building was constructed in 1983.

There are other notable examples of school architecture in Dillon County. Smaller communities such as Bingham, Little Rock, Minturn, and Oakland had a substantial two story brick building for white students, and a smaller, usually frame structured building for African American students. Incorporated towns in Dillon County (Dillon, Latta, and Lakeview) boasted their own grammar and high schools. Latta Grammar School was constructed in 1908 to replace an earlier two story wooden building that had burned.²¹ The Classical Revival school was two stories, made of red brick, had one-over-one pane windows, and featured a monumental portico with Ionic columns. A Classical inspired medallion was placed in the center of the portico’s pediment. This school was a contemporary to Dillon Public School; it predated Dillon school by four years.

Though an exact construction date is unknown, Latta High School was operating in time for its students to have a class photo in 1930. Built in the Collegiate Gothic style, the two story brick structure was a long rectangle with two engaged entrance towers featuring sloping parapet roofs with statuary. Gothic arched windows were featured in the towers, while banks of nine-over-nine windows were used on the building’s additional façades. Also stone quoins decorate the towers.

The Town of Lake View’s high school and grammar school construction dates are unknown but photos in the South Carolina School Insurance files (dating from 1935-1950) show large, two story brick buildings. The high school was constructed in a minimalist Tudor Revival style. It featured a central, rectangular building with a rectangular wing to either side. The central building boasted a sloping parapet roof and a classical inspired engaged portico. Each side wing

¹⁹ *American Architects Directory*, (New Providence, New Jersey, R.R. Bowker, 1970), 241.

²⁰ *1956 American Architects Directory*, 273.

²¹ “History of Dillon County”, <http://www.sciway3.net/proctor/dillon/history/lattahigh.html>, accessed April 17, 2014.

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featured an entrance with a Tudor style arch built in contrasting white stone. Only a side view of Lake View Grammar School exists. It was a plain building; two stories, built of brick with a nearly flat hipped roof and six-over-six windows.

Constructed over a decade after Dillon Public School, East Elementary, served Dillon's younger children starting in 1926. It is a two-and-half-story brick building featuring central Palladian windows, decorative brickwork and concrete details, and a portico with paired round columns.²² It is a revival style building with elements representing the Tudor or possibly Jacobethan style such as the end chimneys, steep parapet gables, and contrasting stone trim. The portico is more Classical Revival with a rounded pediment and fluted columns. Finally, the bay windows are capped with pagoda style roofs indicative of the Chinese influence from the Craftsman period.

Ten schools in Dillon County were constructed as a part of the South Carolina School Equalization Program. Gordon High School (1954) and Maple Elementary School (1954) were constructed for the black students of City of Dillon, while South Dillon School (1953) and Stewart Heights Elementary School (1955) were constructed for white students in the city. Additionally, Columbus High School in Lakeview, Hamer Elementary in Hamer, Latimer Elementary and Latimer High School in Latta, Minturn Elementary in the Minturn community, and Whittaker Elementary in the Little Rock community were constructed for black students. Of these schools, Columbus High School, South Dillon School, and Stewart Heights Elementary are extant. South Dillon School is now operating as South Elementary School. The building features some of the hallmarks of the modern era of school design. It is a one story brick building with a flat roof and metal clad, ten pane windows.²³ A yellow brick rectangular structure with "South Dillon School" emblazoned in metal letters stands by the portico which extends from the main building and features a flat roof and yellow brick, rectangular columns. Stewart Heights Elementary is also still operating in the city. The red brick building is also indicative of the Modern era of school design. It appears that the building had a flat roof at one time but since has been replaced with a slightly angled, green metal roof. The front entrance features concrete, decorative "screen" walls and the metal framed windows feature 5 horizontal panes. Columbus High School is operating as Lake View Middle School. The building has been altered as the banks of metal framed windows have been filled in with stucco leaving only one window and space for a built-in air conditioning unit. The building does retain its flat roof and long rectangular layout.

While these other examples of educational architecture do exist in Dillon County, what makes the complex included in the present nomination unique is that it encompasses multiple building

²² Edward Salo. "Historic Architectural Survey of Dillon County" (Report, Dillon County, South Carolina Department of Transportation, and South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 2011).

²³ Ibid.

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periods and architectural styles all within a single campus. The juxtaposition of these different styles provides an overview of Dillon's architectural and educational history within a compact space and is unlike any other school campus in the area.

EDUCATION

From the beginning, the exponential growth of Dillon was tied to the community commitment to education. The town was formally chartered in 1888 and soon after became a stop on the Atlantic Coast Railway out of Wilson, North Carolina. Before this development, the rural area was largely agricultural in nature, a place where cotton and tobacco ruled supreme. It was isolated from other areas by its natural topography of swamps and bog, but with the introduction of the railroad, the town suddenly became connected in ways previously unknown. The coming of the railroad brought a sudden acceleration of the town's population that quickly outpaced the existing educational infrastructure. Like so many small towns in the state, Dillon's children were educated in a one room log schoolhouse. This rough structure served the town's needs for nearly a decade before the population boom that accompanied the railroad required the town to construct different accommodations for its students.

First, a three room structure that not only served as a school but also a municipal meeting place and church was built. Given the community's ties to farming, it would have been easy to make do with that small facility; after all many area children also helped out on their parents' farms. But the town showed an "unusual interest" in the education of its children as noted by Secretary of State Swearingen in a 1913 report on the schools in the State of South Carolina.²⁴

What could have propelled the town to invest so heavily in the education of its children? Until the late 1800s, there was a strong resistance to taxing for the construction and running of public schools. Many believed that it was the church's place to educate.²⁵ But with the election of Governor Benjamin Tillman, the focus on the dismal state of the public schools took priority. The so-called Tillman Constitution allowed a three mill levy for the education of children.²⁶ Perhaps this was the impetus for the town to commit to building a formal school wholly devoted to the education of its children. Located on West Washington and Third Streets, the cornerstone of Dillon Graded School was laid on July 22, 1896 to much fanfare and included a time capsule that was later opened in July 1996 upon the school's 100th anniversary. The Italianate style of the school was, and continues to be, quite imposing; given the size and grandeur of the building, it was clear that the town was eager to be taken seriously.

²⁴ "Dillon School Complete," *Dillon Herald*, May 8, 1913.

²⁵ Virginia Bartel, "A History of South Carolina Schools" (Report, Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement, 2010).

²⁶ Bartel, "A History of South Carolina Schools." A mill levy refers to the tax rate applied to the assessed value of property. One mill is one dollar per \$1,000 of assessed value.

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While Dillon Graded School served the white children of the area, the 1895 state constitution stated that “Separate schools shall be provided for children of the white and colored races, and no child of either race shall ever be permitted to attend a school provided for children of the other race.” Thus the idea of separate school facilities for different races was upheld, though in actuality the facilities differed greatly. In 1895, the state was spending \$3.11 on each white child while only \$1.05 was spent per black child.²⁷ Fortunately, the Rosenwald Fund stepped in and provided eighteen schools for blacks in Dillon County. One of these schools was a five teacher plant in the town of Dillon built in 1924-25.²⁸ It was a spacious clapboard sided building with nine-over-nine windows and cost a total of \$15,800.

Another turning point in the development of education in Dillon was the formation of Dillon County. For many years, the Dillon and its adjacent towns had been a part of Marion County. Beginning in 1885, influential members of upper Marion County began agitating for a split. However members of lower Marion County, though more populous, did not want to see the split due to the abundance of rich farming land in the upper portion of the county. However, upper Marion County leaders were determined, and after years of fighting, Dillon County was born in 1910.²⁹ Soon after, plans for Dillon Public School began. Opened in 1912, the school was “equipped with modern convenience” with “particular attention” given to the “comfort and convenience of the children.”³⁰ This obviously shows the community’s commitment to education and pride in their busy town. Housing grades 1 through 11, attendance swelled from thirty boys and fifty-two girls to approximately 307 pupils in the 1920s. There were eight teachers at the school and in addition to the usual courses, the curriculum featured bookkeeping, stenography, and music classes.³¹ The school was now the largest in the county and with the removal of the second floor auditorium, more classrooms and a library were added. The library had approximately 600 books and subscribed to eight different magazines.³² Twenty-five thousand dollars of equipment was installed in the school in order to teach woodworking classes, and a complete kitchen and sewing rooms were also set aside for domestic training.³³

In 1927, two school buses were purchased in order to bring students to school. No longer did students outside of the town have to walk or ride in horse and buggies (or cars). By 1928, the school had thirteen teachers and a differentiated curriculum set up for a total of nine months of study per year. Classes combined college preparatory courses with vocational home economics

²⁷ Bartel, “A History of South Carolina Schools.”

²⁸ “Rosenwald Fund Card Database,” Fisk University, accessed April 16, 2014, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search>.

²⁹ Historic Architectural Survey of Dillon County.

³⁰ *Dillon Herald*, May 8, 1913.

³¹ *Dillon Herald*, February 29, 2000.

³² *Dillon Herald*, February 29, 2000.

³³ Stokes, 302.

Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School

Dillon County, SC

Name of Property

County and State

and agriculture, and even commercial management. In fact, Dillon Public School was the only school to offer such classes.³⁴ But not all courses were completely academic. The Dillon community was still highly agricultural in nature; not all students would go on to attend university.³⁵

The school district's spending spree came to an abrupt halt with the Great Depression. The early years of the 1930s were not kind to the Dillon community. Superintendents saw their salaries cut to just \$100 per month. The local government issued script until the local economy could rebound. Fortunately, this temporary measure was abolished when New Deal funds arrived.³⁶ Part of this money came from the Public Works Administration (PWA) and enabled the expansion of the Dillon Public School. The auditorium and gymnasium wings that were constructed by Henry Dudley Harrall in 1936 are the only remaining remnants of the Public School building.

The next significant change in Dillon's educational history was the challenge to the "Separate but Equal" doctrine outlined by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896). For years, white students had been educated separately from black students, and as time passed, more and more money was spent on the former rather than the latter. A 1948 Peabody Commission report discovered that in South Carolina \$111 was spent on each white student as compared to \$50 on each black student. Of one teacher schools in the state 799 devoted to African American education, while only 180 were used to educate white students.³⁷

In 1951, the state passed a three-cent sales tax in an attempt to equalize school facilities. This tax was a response to a court case in Clarendon County, South Carolina, *Briggs vs. Elliott*, that called into question the legislation requiring separate but equal facilities. In an attempt to circumvent desegregation, Governor James F. Byrnes instituted a multi-million dollar campaign to build new elementary and high schools specifically for African-Americans.³⁸

In Dillon, Gordon High School (1954) and Maple Elementary School (1954) were constructed for the black students in town. Also, new or upgraded facilities were constructed for the white students of the area as well: South Dillon High School (1953) and Stewart Heights Elementary School (1955). South Dillon features some of the hallmarks of the modern era of school design. It is a one story building with a flat roof and metal clad, ten pane windows.³⁹ In 1957, Dillon Public School received a cafeteria addition off of the 1936 gymnasium wing. It is not known if

³⁴ *Dillon Herald*, February 29, 2000.

³⁵ "Dillon County", <http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/dillon-county>.

³⁶ Stokes, 309.

³⁷ Bartel, "A History of South Carolina Schools."

³⁸ "South Carolina's Equalization Schools."

³⁹ Dillon County Historical Architectural Survey, 106.

Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School

Dillon County, SC

Name of Property

County and State

Equalization funds were used to construct this building, though the state was still funding projects during this time.

Following the final addition to the Dillon Public School, changing times called for more circumspection in spending. There were now three school districts in Dillon County, and so the city school complex had to compete with other districts for funding. In 1970, a new high school was built and the Dillon Public School became J.V. Martin Junior High School. Following the devastating fire that gutted the original public school building, a new central building was constructed. But by the 1990s, the complex began to fall into disrepair. Modular classrooms were moved onto the site in order alleviate overcrowding and inadequate facilities. In 2005, the school was the subject of a documentary entitled “The Corridor of Shame” highlighting the poor educational facilities in rural South Carolina.⁴⁰ The temperatures in the school were often frigid and water pipes burst on a regular basis. The local fire marshal condemned portions of the school complex, including the 1936 auditorium. Following the Economic Stimulus policies of the Obama Administration, Dillon School District 4 was able to construct a new middle school in 2012. Since that time the Dillon School Complex has been largely abandoned and has fallen into further disrepair. Though the district office still uses parts of the gymnasium and cafeteria additions, as well as Dillon Graded School (now known as West School), the auditorium has been abandoned.

⁴⁰ Kathleen Parker, “A South Carolina School Left Behind,” *Washington Post*, February 22, 2009.

Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School
Name of Property

Dillon County, SC
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School
Name of Property

Dillon County, SC
County and State

“History of Dillon County.” Last accessed April 17, 2014.
<http://www.sciway3.net/proctor/dillon/history/lattahigh.html>.

“Pretty Exercises Open New Auditorium.” *Dillon Herald*, November 21, 1936.

“South Carolina’s Equalization Schools.” Last accessed April 17, 2014.
<http://www.scequalizationschools.org/equalization-schools.html>.

South Carolina State Library. “Dillon County”, Last accessed March 4, 2014.
<http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/dillon-county>.

“The Dillon Schools Began With A One-Room Log Cabin.” *Dillon Herald*, February 29, 2000.

George Washington University. “Public Works Administration”, Last modified November 26, 2013. <http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/pwa.cfm>.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 5.6

Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School
Name of Property

Dillon County, SC
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.421132 Longitude: -79.373947

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

Bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (North 3rd Avenue) to the south, Cleveland Street to the west, West Washington Street to the east, and railroad tracks to the north.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries enclose the four buildings eligible for listing on the National Register.

Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School
Name of Property

Dillon County, SC
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Caroline Wilson
organization: Upstate Preservation Consultants
street & number: 203 North Miller Street
city or town: Greer state: SC zip code: 29650
e-mail upstatepreservation@gmail.com
telephone: (864) 266-8350
date: 11/30/13

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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School
Name of Property

Dillon County, SC
County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School

City or Vicinity: Dillon

County: Dillon

State: South Carolina

Photographer: Caroline Wilson

Date Photographed: October 16, 2013

1. Dillon Graded School (West School) - South Façade
2. Dillon Graded School - South Façade, Bell Tower
3. Dillon Graded School - Rear East Corner
4. Dillon Graded School - East Façade
5. Dillon Graded School - West Front Corner
6. Dillon Graded School - West Entrance
7. Dillon Graded School - Rear West Corner
8. Dillon Graded School - Eave Detail
9. Dillon Graded School - Downstairs Rear Hall
10. Dillon Graded School - Downstairs Main Hall, from Vestibule
11. Dillon Graded School - Typical Downstairs Classroom
12. Dillon Graded School - Front Staircase, from Vestibule
13. Dillon Graded School - Main Stair Hall
14. Dillon Graded School - Upstairs Main Hall
15. Dillon Graded School - Upstairs Rear Hall
16. Dillon Graded School - Bell Tower Office Window
17. Dillon Graded School - Typical Upstairs Classroom Door
18. Auditorium - South Façade
19. Auditorium - West Façade
20. Auditorium - West Façade Entrance
21. Auditorium - West Façade Window
22. Auditorium - East Façade
23. Auditorium - Main Vestibule
24. Auditorium - Downstairs East Classroom
25. Auditorium - Downstairs West Classroom
26. Auditorium - First Floor Doors, Inside Auditorium View
27. Auditorium - Main Auditorium, Looking North
28. Auditorium - Main Auditorium and Balcony, Looking South
29. Auditorium - Full Stage
30. Auditorium - Stage Left Entrance
31. Auditorium - Stage Left Stair

Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School

Dillon County, SC
County and State

Name of Property

32. Auditorium - Stage Left Storage Room
33. Auditorium - Back Stage
34. Auditorium - Back Stage Rafters
35. Auditorium - Stage
36. Auditorium - Stage Right Storage Room
37. Auditorium - Auditorium Northeast Corner
38. Auditorium - West Window
39. Auditorium - Pilaster Decoration
40. Auditorium - Lighting Fixture
41. Auditorium - Theater Chairs
42. Auditorium - West Balcony Staircase
43. Auditorium - West Balcony Staircase Detail
44. Auditorium - West Balcony Vestibule
45. Auditorium - West Balcony Entrance
46. Auditorium - Balcony
47. Auditorium - Main Auditorium View from Balcony
48. Auditorium - East Balcony Entrance
49. Auditorium - East Balcony Vestibule
50. Auditorium - Upstairs East Classroom
51. Auditorium - Upstairs West Classroom
52. Gymnasium - South Façade
53. Gymnasium - East Façade
54. Gymnasium/Cafeteria Addition - East Façade
55. Cafeteria Addition - West Façade
56. Cafeteria Addition - Woodshop
57. Cafeteria Addition - Memorial Plaque
58. Gymnasium - Interior, Looking South
59. Gymnasium - Interior, Looking North
60. Gymnasium - Bleachers
61. Gymnasium - Steel Truss Rafters
62. Gymnasium - Front Hall, Outside of Gym
63. Gymnasium - Staircase leading to Upstairs Classroom (Music Room)
64. Gymnasium - Boys' Bathroom
65. Gymnasium - Girls' Bathroom
66. Gymnasium - Girls' Locker Room
67. Cafeteria Addition - Main Hall, Linking Gymnasium to Cafeteria
68. Cafeteria Addition - Main Entrance
69. Cafeteria Addition - Cafetorium
70. Cafeteria Addition - Cafetorium, Looking North
71. Cafeteria Addition - Cafetorium, Looking South
72. Cafeteria Addition - Cafetorium Kitchen
73. Cafeteria Addition - Wood Shop
74. J.V. Martin Front Exterior - New Addition
75. J.V. Martin Exterior - New Addition and Auditorium
76. J.V. Martin Exterior - New Addition and Gymnasium

Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School
Name of Property

Dillon County, SC
County and State

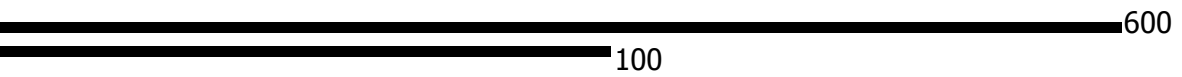
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain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

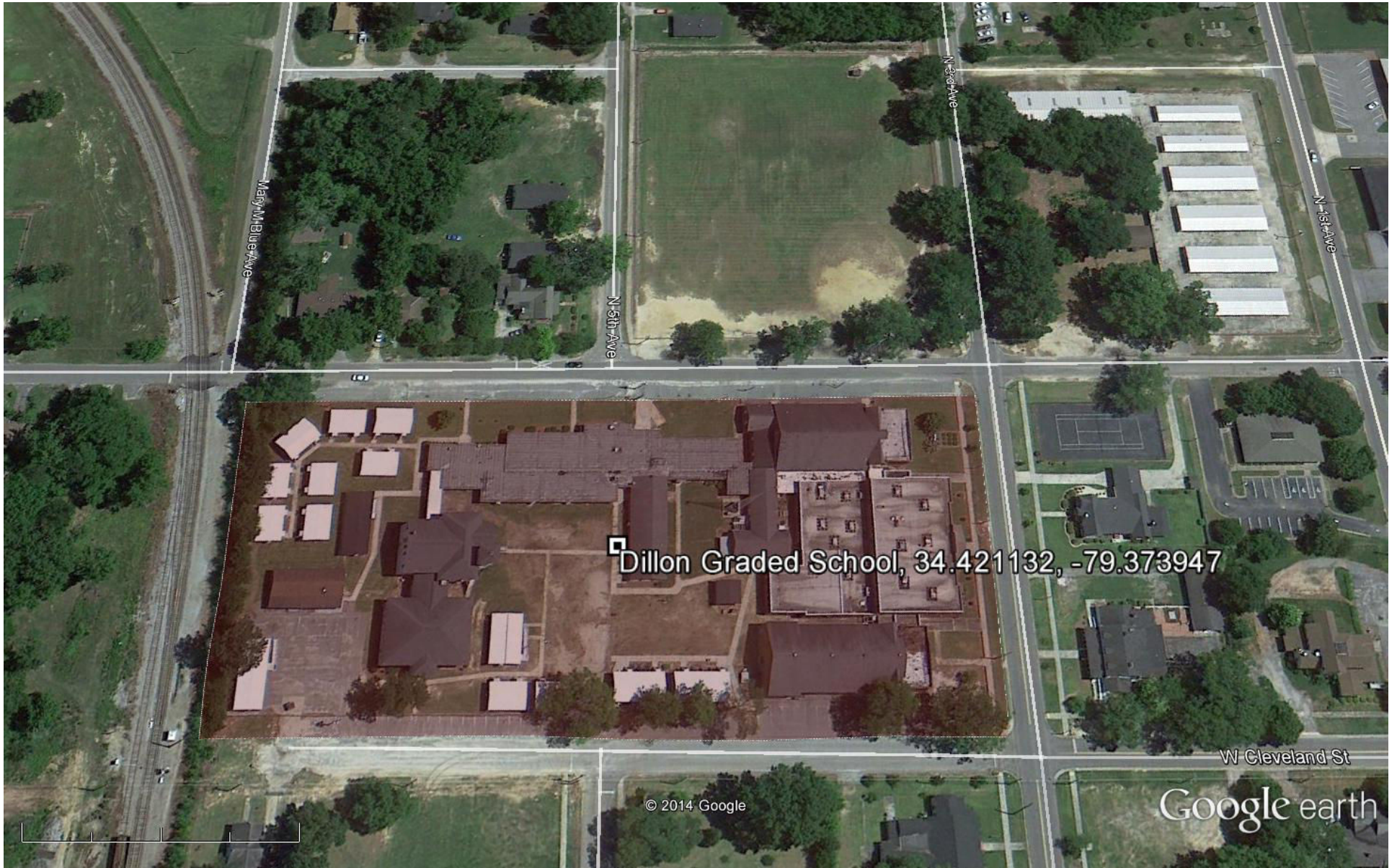
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Google earth

feet
meters





Dillon Graded School, 34.421132, -79.373947

W Cleveland St

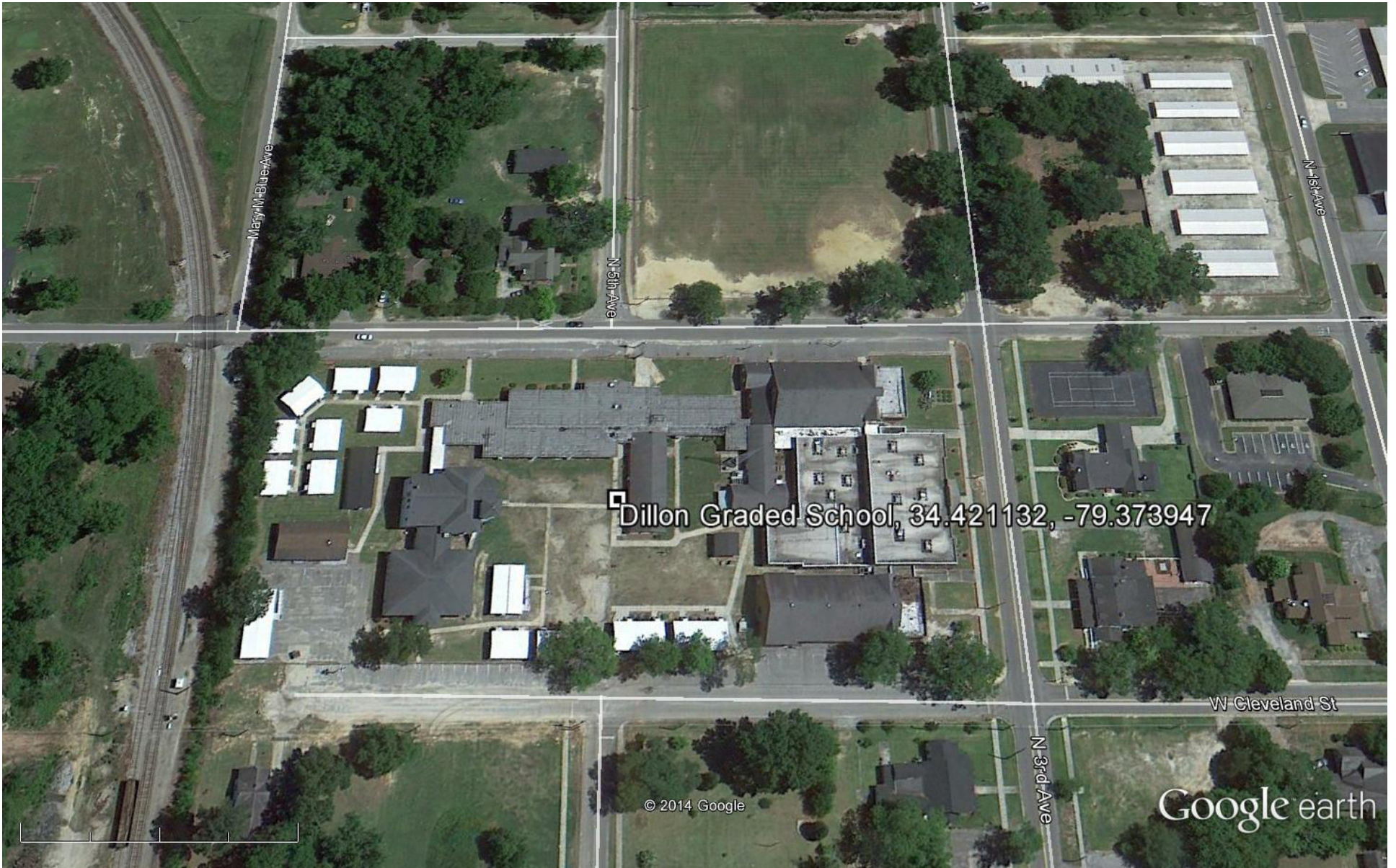
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Google earth

Google earth

feet
meters





Dillon Graded School, 34.421132, -79.373947

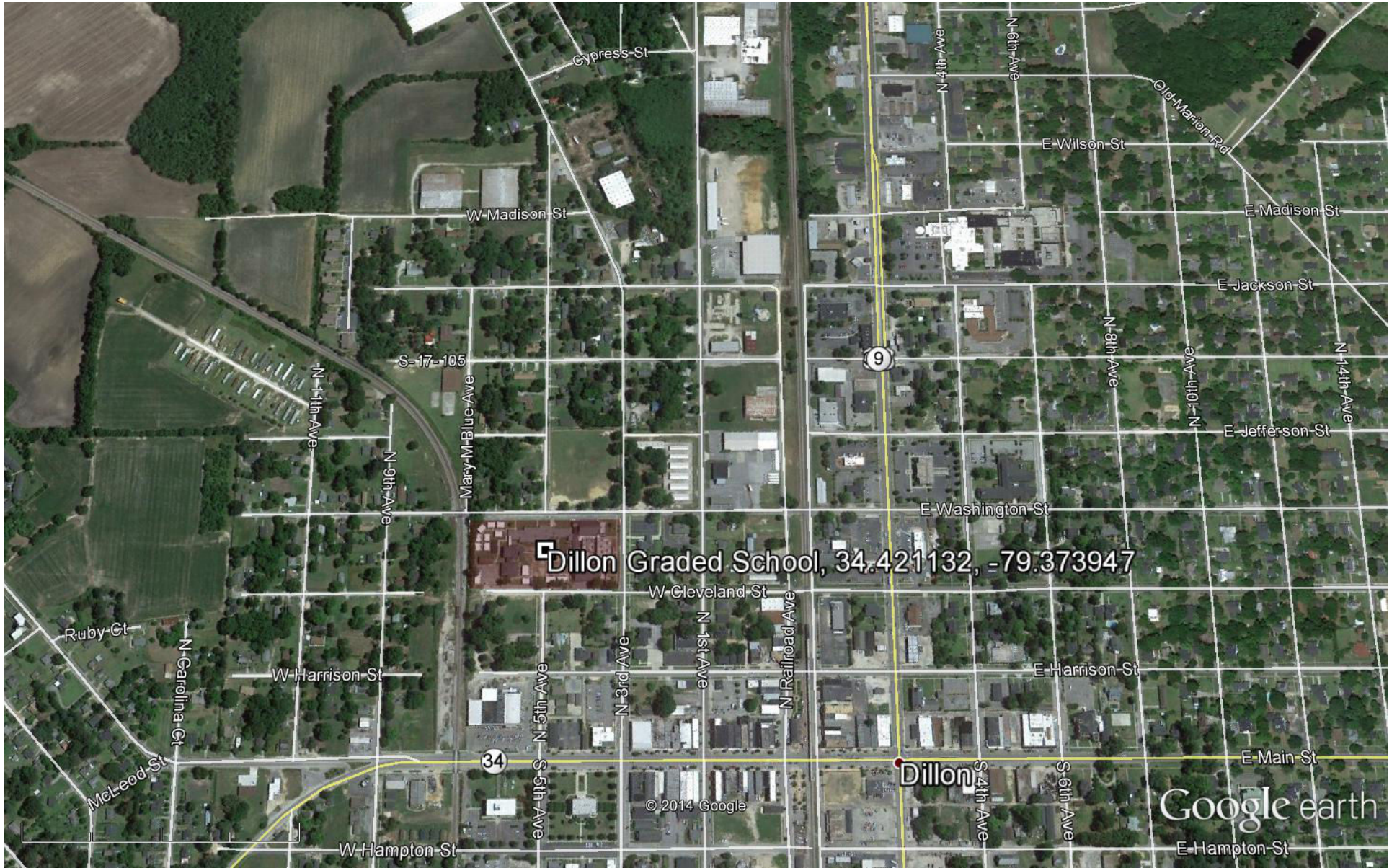
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Google earth

Google earth

feet
meters





Google earth

feet
km

3000

1







WELLSVILLE
METHODIST CHURCH
1885









NO ENTRANCE
NO PULLING OF FIRE
ALARMS







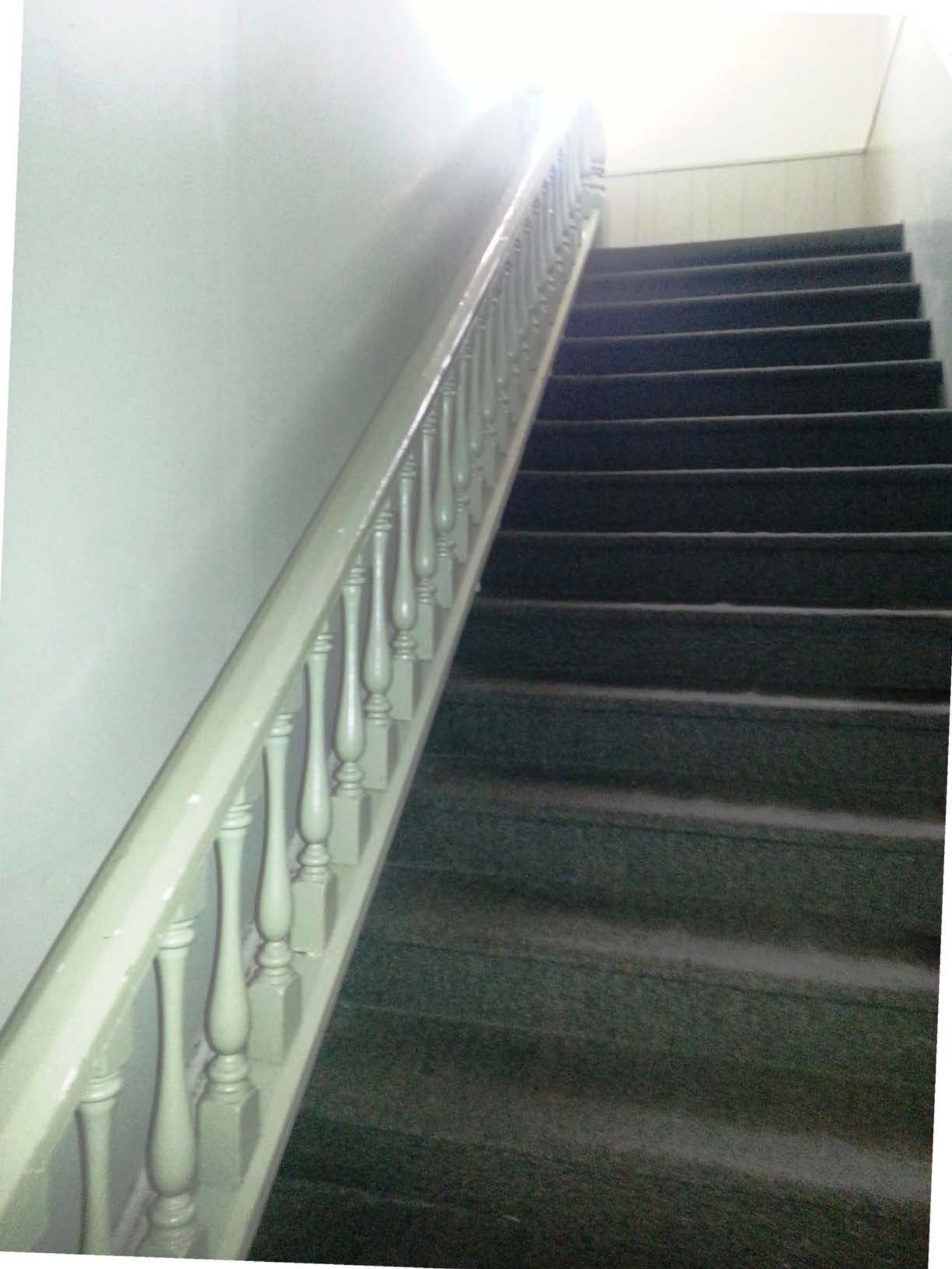


WET
FLOOR



CAUTION



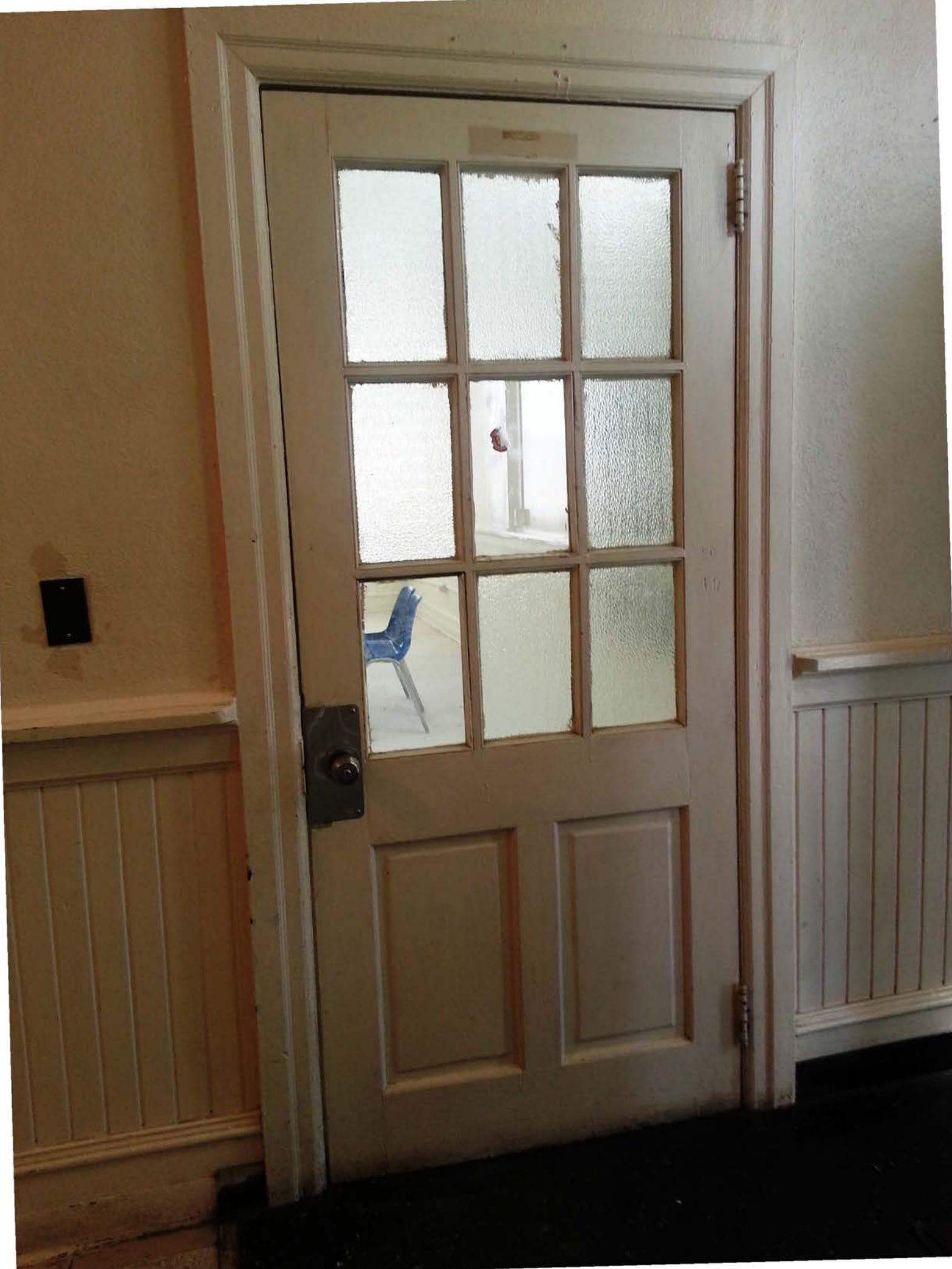














NO ENTRANCE
MAIN OFFICE





Use Front
Entrance

Small white sign on the brick wall to the right of the door.







EXIT







FIRE
RESISTANCE
INSIDE



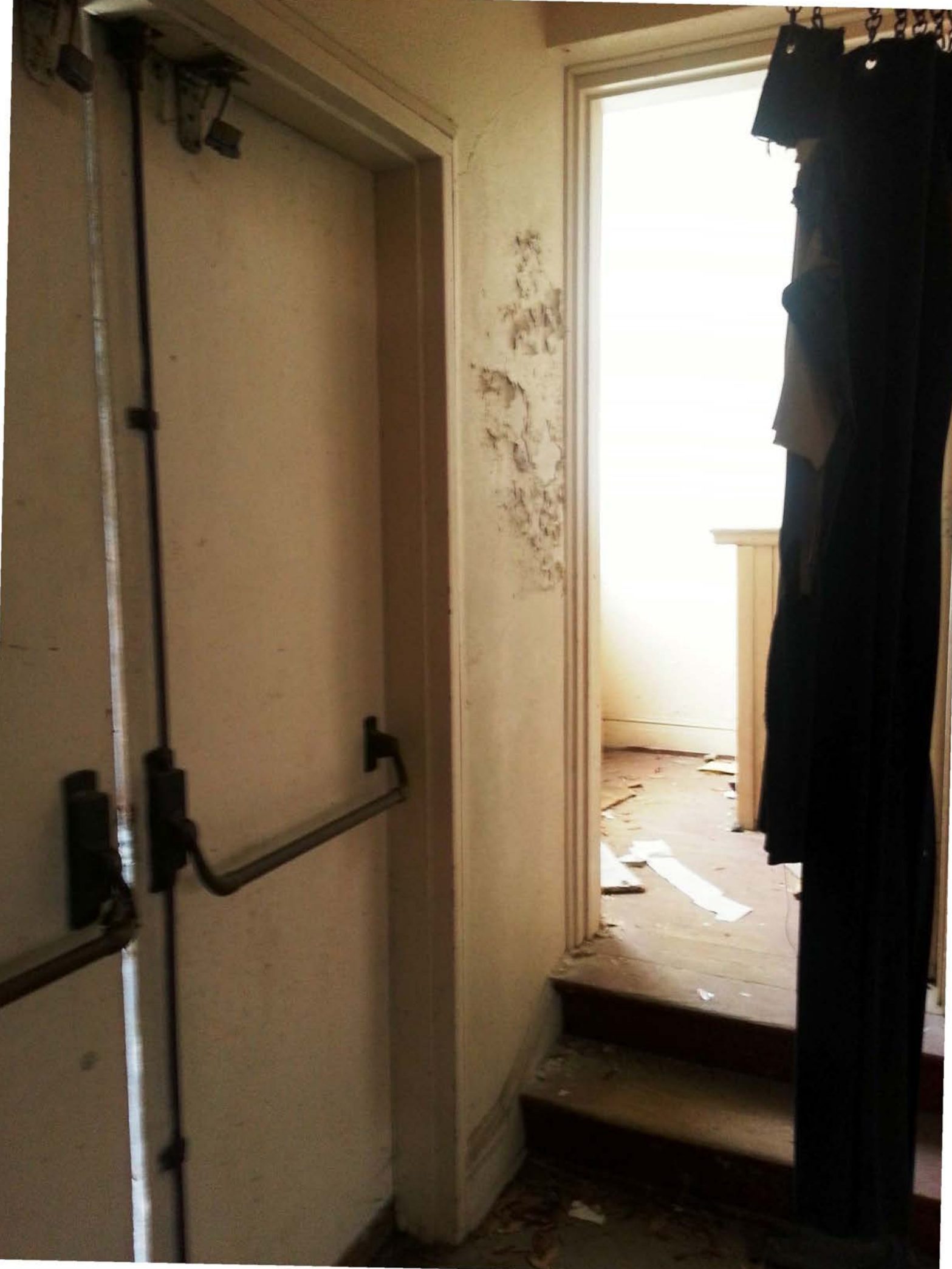
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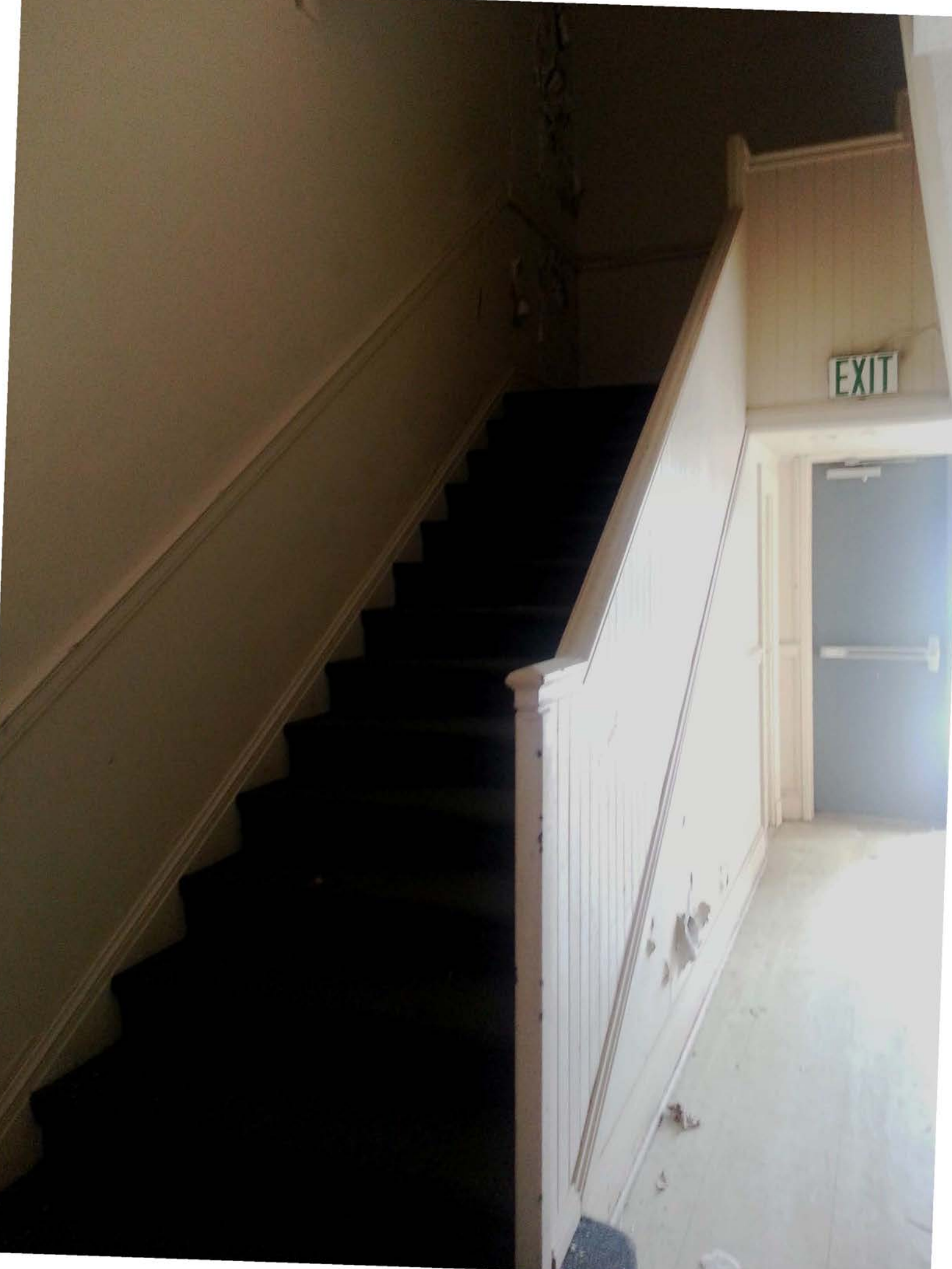






EXIT





EXIT







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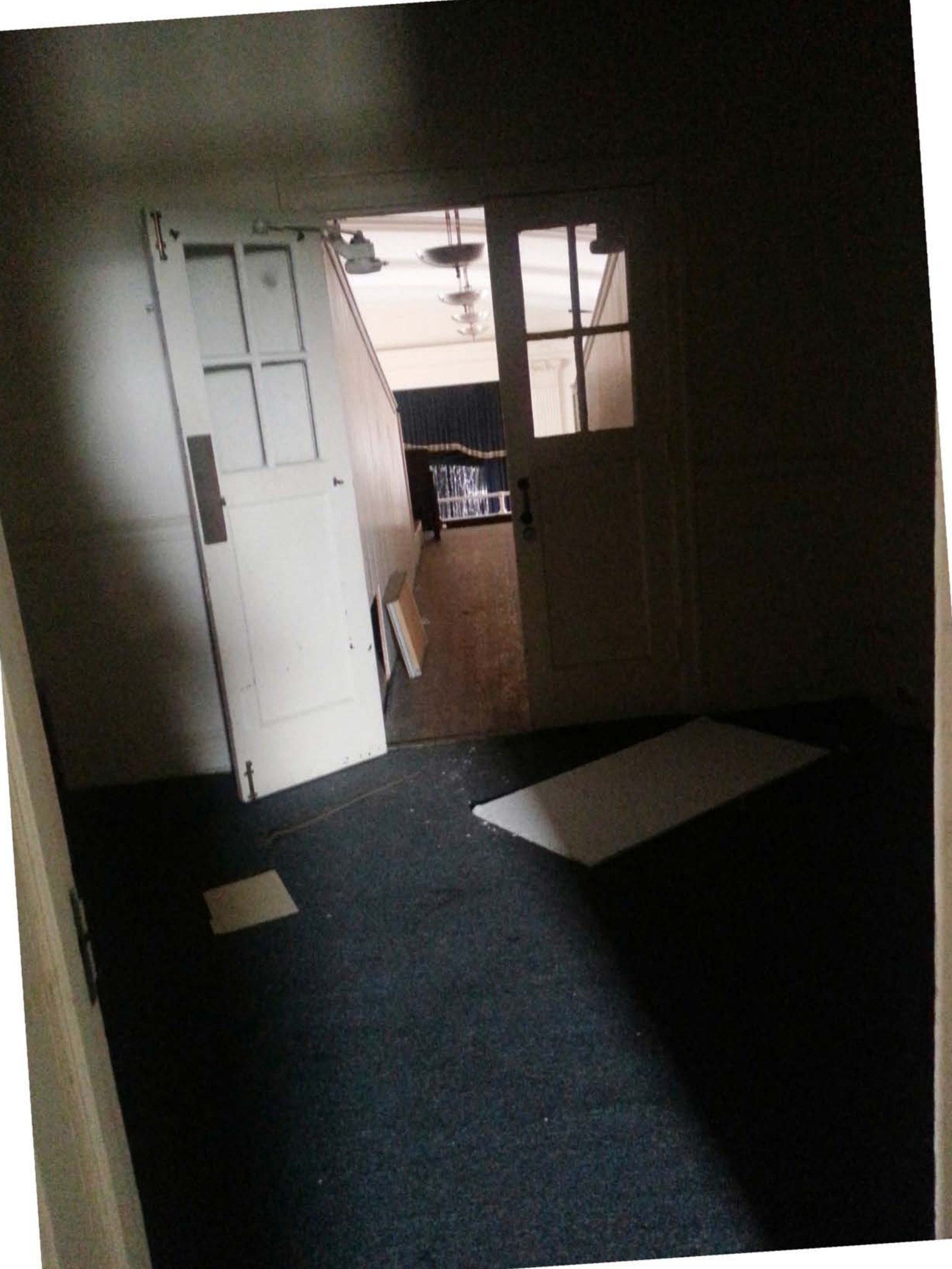
EXIT

B





EXIT

















ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS
TO
DILLON HIGH SCHOOL

ERECTED 1957

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

W. S. POPE, CHAIRMAN
S. B. CHANDLER, SECRETARY
E. H. ARNETTE
LILA MCCALL, JR.
MENDELL E. SMITH
H. U. TRUAX

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:

J. V. MARTIN

JAMES & DURANT, A.I.A. ARCHITECTS

R. B. JAMES, A.I.A., ASSOCIATE
SUMTER, S. C.

BOYLE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

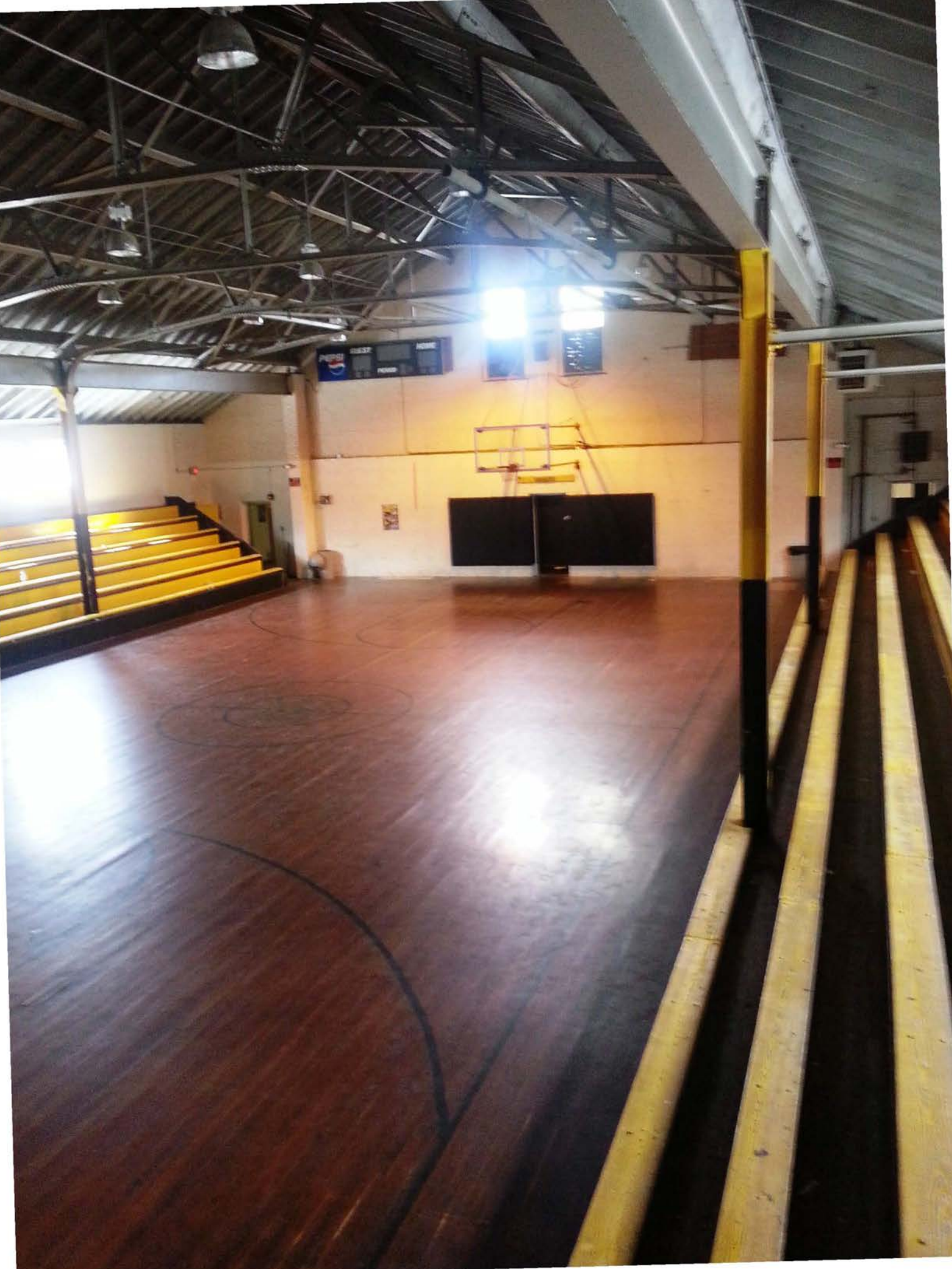
SUMTER, S. C.
BUILDERS



J
V
M



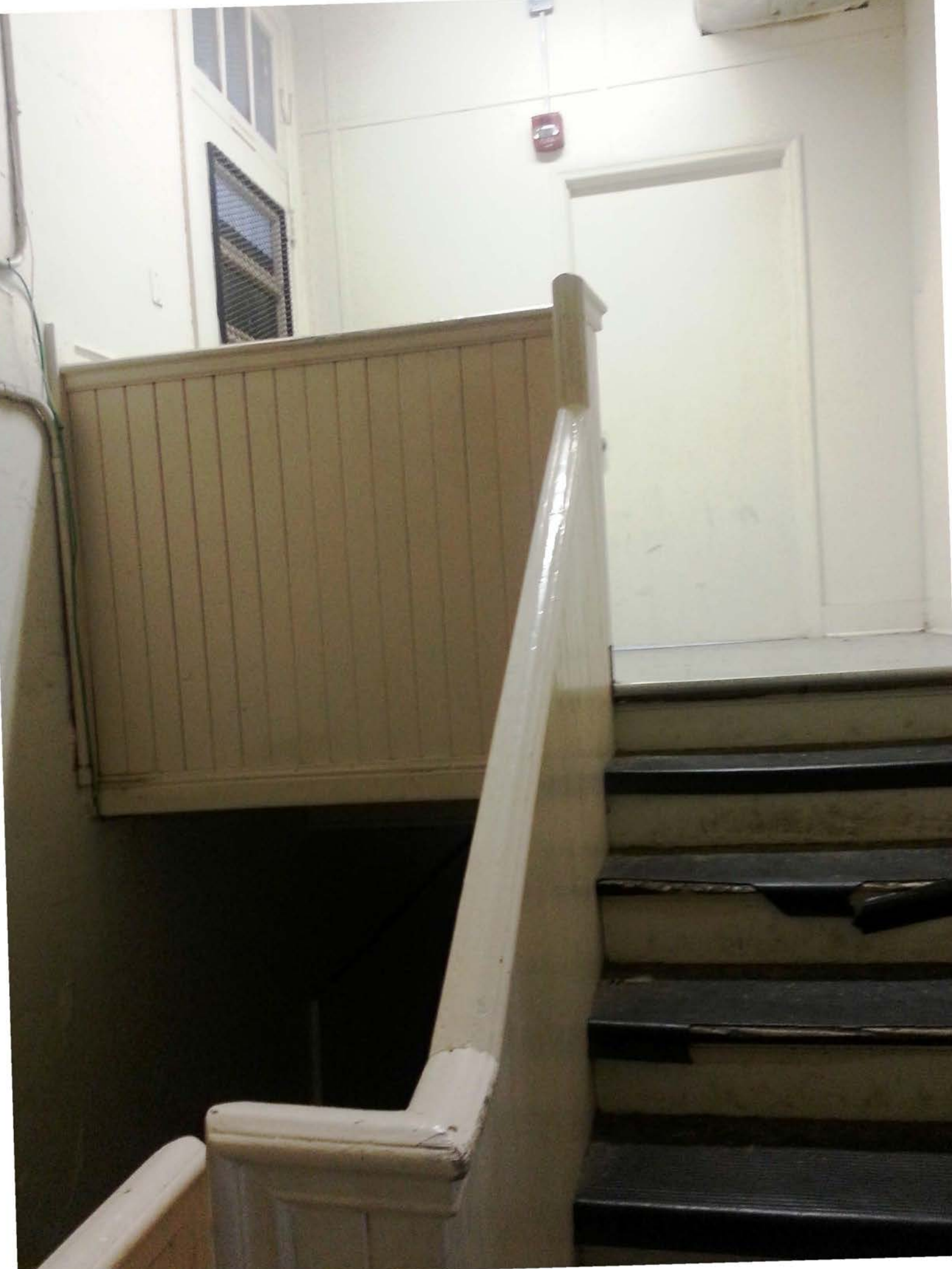
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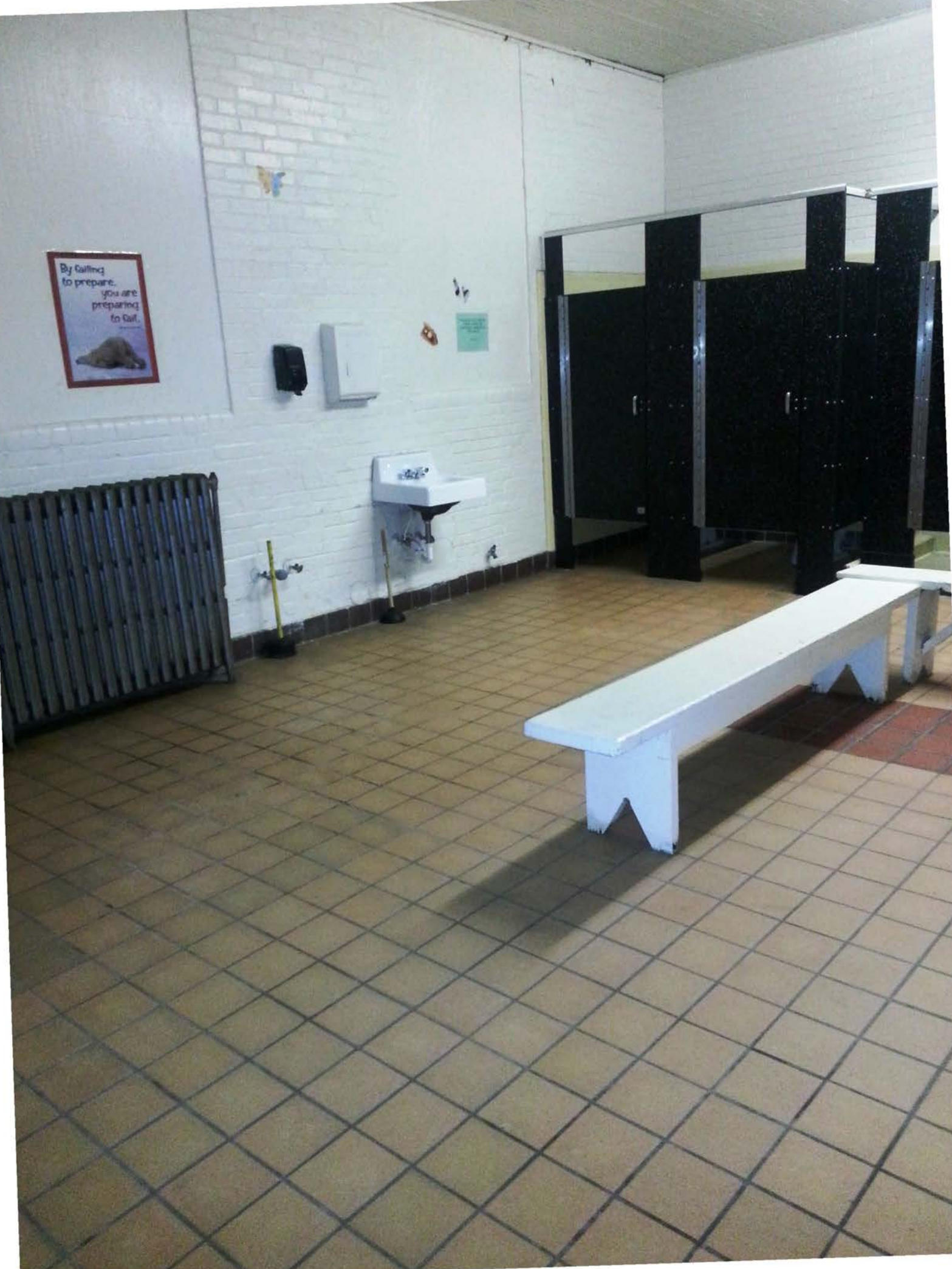




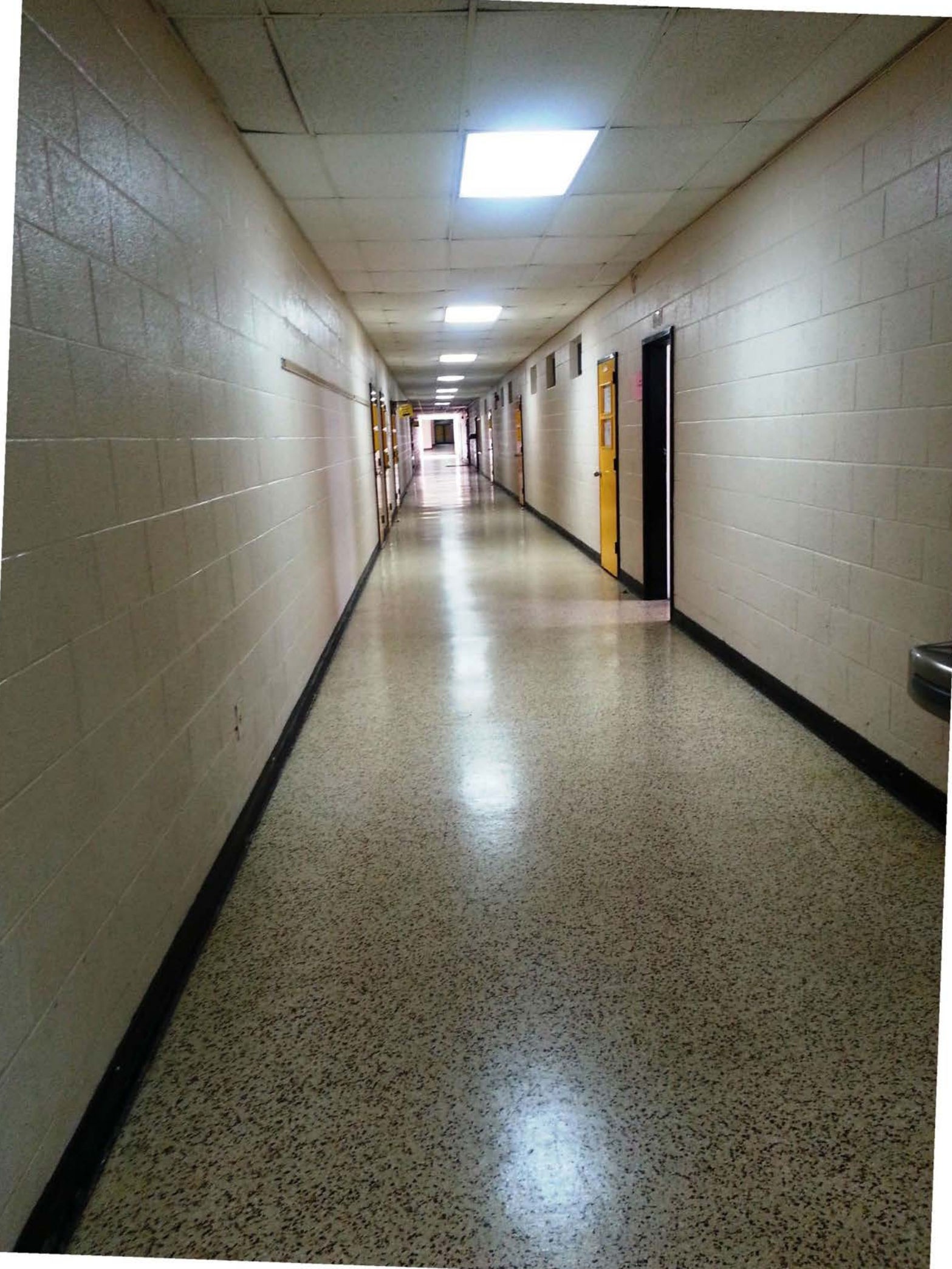




By calling
to prepare,
you are
preparing
to call.







CAFETORIUM

DISTRICT
TRAINING
ROOM



DISTRICT
TRAINING
ROOM





There is no one here
to see the people
who are here
to see the people
who are here

The building
is a very
important
part of
the school

There is no one here
to see the people
who are here
to see the people
who are here

There is no one here
to see the people
who are here
to see the people
who are here



"Believe in the power of your mind."

"Do you want to know who you are?
Don't ask. Ask Allah will delineate and define you."
Quran, Surah



Black sign with white text, likely a schedule or list of items.



STITCHES

Vertical text on the far right wall, possibly a sign or poster.







J. V. MARTIN
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

391



J.V. MARTIN
1900 HIGH SCHOOL

J.V. MARTIN



J.V. MARTIN
LARCH HIGH SCHOOL

First Citizens
J.V. MARTIN
LARCH HIGH SCHOOL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH CAROLINA, Dillon

DATE RECEIVED: 8/15/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/08/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/23/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/01/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000818

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

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9-30-14 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.



JUL 31 2014

July 29, 2014

Tel: (843) 774-8711
Fax: (843) 774-8702

Mr. Brad Sauls
S.C. Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223-4905

Re: Dillon Graded School (Dillon Public School, J.V. Martin Middle School), 405 West Washington Street, Dillon County, Dillon, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Sauls:

Enclosed please find the dissenting views of Dillon County Board of Education and Dillon School District Four regarding the nomination of the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Eric Emerson extended to us the privilege of submitting these views as an attachment to your notice to the Department of Interior of the panel's approval of the nomination.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to have our views considered by the Department of Interior in the course of their review of this nomination.

Sincerely,

Richard Schafer, Chairman, Dillon County Board of Education

D. Ray Rogers, Superintendent, Dillon School District Four

kt

Enclosure



Tel: (843) 774-8711
Fax: (843) 774-8702

IN THE MATTER OF DILLON GRADED SCHOOL (DILLON PUBLIC SCHOOL, J.V. MARTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL, 405 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, DILLON COUNTY, DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA)

On July 25, 2014, a panel representing the South Carolina Department of Archives and History acted to approve the Dillon County Historic Association's nomination of the above mentioned property for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. A representative of the Department of Archives and History then invited the property's current owner and its current user, Dillon County Board of Education and Dillon School District Four, respectively, to submit a written statement of dissent for attachment to the Notice to be given by the Department of Archives and History of their action to the U.S. Department of Interior for its review and consideration. For this accommodation the current owner and current user of the property are grateful.

BACKGROUND

The Dillon County Historic Association is comprised of a local group of Dillon citizens motivated by a fervent desire to have the Dillon County Board of Education and Dillon School District Four to preserve and maintain for public use the property in question – namely, Dillon Graded School and the auditorium and the gymnasium attached to opposite sides of what was formerly the J.V. Martin Middle School. The preservation and restoration of the J.V. Martin auditorium is Dillon County Historic Association's primary and perhaps their sole focus. Dillon Graded School was constructed in 1896 and currently houses Dillon School District Four's Program for Exceptional Children. The auditorium and the gymnasium attached to the now defunct J.V. Martin Middle School were constructed in 1936 as a Great Depression public works project.

The State Department of Education's Office for School Facilities has given notice that the J.V. Martin Middle School Auditorium, which has sat vacant for over twelve years, cannot be used unless and until it is renovated to meet current building code standards and a new certificate of occupancy is issued. An architect knowledgeable of the situation has advised that such renovation would cost in the millions of dollars. And the liability insurer of the J.V. Martin property has advised that current coverage is not viable.

Dillon County, because of its poverty stricken condition, has been officially designated a part of the so-called "Corridor of Shame" and, until just recently, all of Dillon School District Four's school facilities were in deplorable condition. During his 2008 campaign for Presidency, Senator Obama made two visits to Dillon School District Four to call national attention to School District Four's desperate financial straits. These two visits by Senator Obama prompted a J.V. Martin Middle School student, Ty'Sheoma Bethea, to write President Obama a letter imploring him to do all he could to promote the building of a new middle school for Dillon School District Four. In his bid to do this, the President arranged for Miss Bethea to sit next to Mrs. Obama at his State of the Union Address and be applauded by the Congress. With the help of loans for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a new "Dillon Middle School" opened its doors last year and those of J.V. Martin Middle School were permanently shut. With continuing help of USDA loans, a new auditorium and District office administration wing is presently under construction.

Much more costly school construction is urgently needed in School District Four and, at this point, no outside help either awaits or is expected by this School District more than 90% of whose school population is eligible for free/reduced price breakfast and lunch.

STATEMENT

One ought not to be obstinate except when one ought to be. In this instance reality leaves the Dillon County Board of Education and Dillon School District Four no option but to be in obstinate opposition to

Dillon County Historic Association's effort to impose upon them the obviously unbearable burden of preserving and maintaining for public use the properties in question. The Dillon County Historic Association admittedly has no money and no prospect of procuring any for the purpose of renovating the J.V. Martin Middle School auditorium. The Dillon County Historic Association aims to exert pressure via the opinion page of the local newspaper of the kind they think will cause the Dillon County Board of Education and Dillon School District Four to undertake what would be a crushing financial burden of renovating and maintaining a restored J.V. Martin auditorium. The latest manifestation of this intent is a recent letter to the editor boasting of their total victory in the July 25th hearing before the Department of Archives and History hearing panel.

At the July 25th hearing, the chosen spokesperson for the Dillon County Historic Association admitted that they have no funding and are simply "dreaming on a foundation of clouds". The Dillon County Historic Association lives in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. Furthermore, the panel member who made the motion to approve the Dillon County Historic Association nomination admitted that he was driven by the emotional excitement of his wife pointing to the J.V. Martin Middle School classroom where she sat next to Ben Bernanke, a student destined to become Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Virtually every school in the land has had talented students who grew up to become public officials of some kind. That certainly is no reason to designate such school buildings, even those erected by the WPA during the great depression era, as historic and worthy of preserving at public expense. By this standard countless old school buildings are historic and worthy of preservation.

The undersigned are not oblivious to the fact that designation as a historic place places no responsibility on them to renovate and maintain that place. But neither are we unmindful of the fact that once such a designation has been given a school facility in circumstances as emotionally electric as these, political turmoil and division of the most disruptive kind on the public educational process can easily wash over and linger over a community with appalling results.

CONCLUSION

A new auditorium on the premises of the new Dillon Middle School is now under construction at a cost of \$5,500,000.00. No administrative authority of any school district, either one with or without ample financial resources, should be pressured by any governmental power or special interest group to pay dizzyingly high costs of renovating old and unusable school facilities while at the same time paying the costs associated with new replacement school facilities. And seeking to impose such unconscionable duplicate cost on a school district mired in deep poverty, as in the instant case, is an unpardonable sin.

We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them. Therefore, it is our earnest plea that this higher level of decision making authority we not appeal to will not let stand this egregiously mistaken and emotionally charged judgment by the authority below. This higher review authority can accomplish this by merely exercising that apparently uncommon thing called "common sense".

Respectfully submitted,


Richard Schafer, Chairman, Dillon County Board of Education


D. Ray Rogers, Superintendent, Dillon School District Four

August 6, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull
Interim Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye (I) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

Here is the National Register nomination for Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School, Dillon County, recently approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review.

We are now submitting this nomination for formal listing in the Register. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Dillon Graded School and Dillon Public School to the National Register of Historic Places.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6182, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at efoley@scdah.state.sc.us. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ehren Foley".

Ehren Foley, Ph.D.
Historian and National Register Co-Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office