

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56-1780

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: Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools

Other names/site number: Woonsocket Middle 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: 357 Park Place

City or town: Woonsocket State: Rhode Island County: Providence

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 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 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">Edward T Sanderson</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em;">9/13/2017</p>
<p>Signature of certifying official/Title: Date</p>	
<p><u>Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission</u></p>	
<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official: Date</p>	
<p>Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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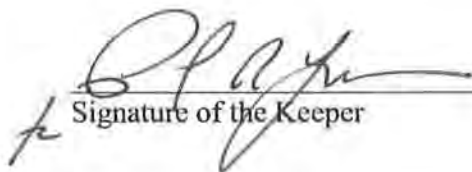
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

11/6/2017
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</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/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE/Granite and Limestone

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 former Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools, also known as the Woonsocket Middle School, sits on a large lot at 357 Park Place in the center of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Park Place encircle the site, and is south of the Blackstone River and north of the Providence and Worcester Railroad right-of-way in the residential neighborhood of Villa Nova. The city's downtown is across the river to the west. The building occupies the northern four-fifths of its southwest-northeast oriented, rectangular lot, with paved parking lots along the southwest edge and within the partially enclosed area in the northwest part of the parcel. Park Place is a one-way street with a concrete sidewalk on both sides that forms a continuous loop around the school property. The school is surrounded by primarily multi-family buildings that date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The residences are mostly two- to three-story buildings on small, rectangular lots.

The E-shaped Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools (contributing building) was built in four phases between 1915 and 1952 (Photographs 1–3). The earliest section of the building, at the south end of the complex, was constructed in 1915 as the Woonsocket [Senior] High School with an attached gymnasium on the rear (not extant). In 1925, an addition was constructed on the east end of the north elevation of the High School. In 1927, a Junior High School, with an auditorium, a gymnasium, and a boiler house, was constructed connected to the north elevation of the 1925 addition. In 1951–1952, the original Senior High School gym was demolished and a new Gymnasium Annex was erected in its place on the north elevation of the original 1915 building. A brick smokestack (contributing structure) is attached to the west side of the boiler house, near the center of the property. A sign (non-contributing object) with the words

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“WOONSOCKET MIDDLE SCHOOL” in painted letters sits perpendicular to the road near the center of the east side of the property. Almost the entire property is paved, with minimal landscaping. There are some long, raised planters adjacent to an ADA accessible ramp on the north elevation, and a few mature, deciduous trees at the north and south ends of the property.

The site of the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools has remained relatively intact since the mid-twentieth century. The east and west ends of the site were originally composed of grassy lawns and paved walkways lined with planting beds containing mature shrubs and deciduous trees. The vegetation and walkways were removed to create additional parking on the west side of the school between 1995 and 2003 (NETR 1995, 2003). The school building remains largely unaltered and retains a high degree of integrity. The primary changes include the replacement of original, large, double-hung windows throughout the building with more energy-efficient aluminum sash with translucent fiberglass panels in the late twentieth century and the removal of the roof balustrade from the main block of the 1915 Senior High School at an unknown date in the mid- to late-twentieth century. The balustrade is visible in an undated postcard after the construction of the Junior High School in 1927 (Figure 9).

Narrative Description

Exterior

Senior High School

The 1915 Senior High School is a three-story, roughly H-shaped brick building designed in the Classical Revival style (see Photograph 1). The building is composed of a seven-bay-wide central block and slightly projecting (at both front and rear) pavilions at the east and west ends. The symmetrical south (facade) elevation has narrow, recessed bays at each end, and the primary entrance in the center. The building's flat roof has a solid brick parapet capped with granite coping around the entire building. A deeply molded granite and brick cornice runs below the parapet on the east and west pavilions. The granite cornice meets a denticulated brick cornice at the east and west ends of the main block. An identical, brick, denticulated cornice runs below the limestone cornice on the pavilions. The brick walls rest on a high, raised brick basement with a flat, granite watertable. The first story is divided horizontally by recessed courses of brick and separated from the second story by a granite beltcourse. The second and third stories of the main block are divided vertically by brick pilasters with granite capitals. The primary entrance in the center of the facade is recessed in a granite block surround and is accessed by a set of cascading, granite block stairs. The surround is smooth granite block with a simple molded cornice and a large, slightly projecting, triangular pediment. A granite panel with “Woonsocket High School” carved in relief is in the lintel. The doors consist of modern, metal, double-leaf panels with a two-light, frosted-glass transom that replaced the original rectangular transom with decorative muntins. Secondary entrances are centered on the east and west elevations. Each of these entrances consists of identical, modern, metal, double-leaf doors with a two-light, frosted-glass transom, in a recessed bay with brick pilasters and slightly projecting, splayed, brick lintels with a granite keystone beneath a projecting, granite lintel.

The fenestration pattern is unaltered, but the original large, six-over-six and twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash were replaced in the late twentieth century. The current windows on the first floor of the main block and all floors of the pavilions are aluminum, single-light, fixed-over-awning sash primarily arranged in pairs in the main block and in groups of four in the pavilions. On the main block's second and third floors, the windows are aluminum, with two fixed lights separated vertically over four awning sash in a two-by-two configuration. The window openings on the second floor are approximately 50 percent taller

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than those around them and those on the third floor are shortened to make up for the extra height below. Window openings on the first story of the main block of the building have splayed, brick lintels with granite keystones. Window openings on the second story of the main block have granite keystones. The fixed sash portions of all of the windows are filled with translucent, fiberglass panels. Steel fire escapes are attached to the east and west elevations.

1925 Senior High School Addition

The three-story, rectangular, brick Senior High School Addition was constructed in 1925 on the east end of the north elevation of the Senior High School (see Photograph 2). The brick bands on the first story, granite watertable and beltcourse, and cornice match the original block of the building. An entrance in the east bay of the south elevation of the addition is similar to the secondary entrances of the main block, with modern, metal, double-leaf doors, a two-light, frosted-glass transom, brick pilasters, and granite lintel. The windows are aluminum, fixed and fixed-over-awning sash with translucent fiberglass panels in the fixed sashes. Blind, decorative brick panels are in the east bay of the south elevation over the entrance.

Junior High School

The Junior High School was built in 1927 at the north end of the property, connected to the north elevation of the Senior High School Addition. The Junior High School is a three-story, ten-bay-by-three-bay, C-shaped, brick building also designed in the Classical Revival style (see Photograph 3). It is composed of four major sections: the classroom block, entrance pavilion, auditorium, and boiler house. The majority of the building is reminiscent of the Senior High School, repeating the three stories of red brick with granite trim, flat roof, and banks of windows.

The three-story classroom block is composed of a central, nine-bay-wide main block facing north with slightly projecting pavilions at the west and east ends (Photograph 4). The west pavilion has a single, blank bay on the north elevation and three bays on the west, and does not project beyond the south wall of the main block. The east wing is asymmetrical, with a single, blank bay on the north elevation and five-bays, including a slightly projecting entrance bay second from the north end on the east elevation. The classroom block has a flat roof edged by a brick parapet. A molded limestone cornice runs around the entire block beneath the parapet. A denticulated brick cornice runs beneath the molded cornice. The brick walls rest on a high, raised, brick and granite basement with a flat, granite watertable. The first story is separated from the second story by a granite beltcourse. The primary entrance in the center of the symmetrical north elevation consists of modern, metal, double-leaf doors with a filled rectangular transom set in a molded granite block surround surmounted by a wide granite lintel and triangular pediment. A sign with the words "Woonsocket Middle School" in raised letters is in the transom. The entrance is accessed by a set of late-twentieth-century concrete stairs that cover the original granite stairs, and an ADA-accessible ramp to the west of the entrance. The secondary entrances on the west and east elevations are identical, with modern, metal, double-leaf doors each with a flat metal awing and a rectangular, translucent fiberglass transom flanked by brick pilasters capped by a wide, granite lintel and large keystone. Windows throughout primarily consist of groups of five (two in the basement level) aluminum, fixed-over-awning sash with translucent fiberglass panels in the fixed sash and granite sills. Window openings on the third story have an additional band of denticulated brick beneath the granite sill. A modern steel fire escape is attached to each of the rear (west and south) elevations of the classroom block. A window was replaced with a steel fire exit door in each story to provide access to the fire escapes.

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The most prominent feature of the Junior High School building is a four-story (three stories on the facade) pavilion on the east elevation, which is connected to the Senior High School Addition by a recessed, four-story stair tower (Photograph 5). The pavilion is of limestone block, one-story taller than the classroom block of the Junior High School. It has a symmetrical facade composed of three central entrance bays that are vertically divided by four colossal, Doric, limestone pilasters supporting a wide limestone lintel. The two interior pilasters are round and the flanking pilasters are square. The pavilion has a flat roof with a stepped, limestone block parapet that is taller over the three central bays and flanked by scrolls. A second, deep, denticulated limestone cornice runs between the second and third stories. The three entrances are identical and each consist of modern, metal, double-leaf doors with a two-light transom with translucent fiberglass panels, in a slightly projecting, molded limestone surround with a triangular pediment. Smooth limestone panels above each entrance are inscribed with "FAITH," "HOPE," and "WISDOM." Above each panel is a single window opening with a large limestone keystone adorned with scrolled a console. Each opening contains an aluminum window with two fixed lights separated vertically over four awning sash in a two-by-two configuration. The fixed sash are filled with translucent fiberglass panels. Windows on third story are also fixed-over-awning, aluminum sash with translucent fiberglass panels. The side elevations of the pavilion each have one exposed bay with paired, aluminum sash, single-hung windows on each floor.

The pavilion is flanked by four-story stair towers that create the links to the Senior High School and the classroom block of the Junior High School. The stair towers have brick parapets with triangular pediments below the roofline. Entrances at the base of each stair tower consist of modern, metal doors with molded, slightly-projecting, flat hoods and wide granite lintels. The second- and third-story windows of the towers are rectangular, aluminum, fixed sash with translucent fiberglass panels under splayed, brick lintels with granite keystones. The fourth-story window is an aluminum fixed-over-awning sash set in a recessed, round-arch opening with a granite keystone and spring blocks. A cast stone panel with a shield in relief on each is affixed to the wall between the third and fourth stories.

A tall one-story, brick auditorium wing is attached at the west side of the Junior High School's entrance pavilion (Photograph 6). The wing has a flat roof with a brick parapet with aluminum coping. A deeply molded cornice runs beneath the parapet wall. The brick walls rest on a high raised brick and granite basement with a granite water table. Entrances are located at the west ends of the north and south elevations and consist of modern, metal, double-leaf doors with filled, two-light rectangular transoms and flat metal hoods. Window openings are rectangular with granite sills and a mix of fixed multi-light sash and translucent fiberglass panels.

A one-story, brick, L-shaped boiler house is attached to the west elevation of the auditorium (see Photograph 6). It has a flat roof with a very shallow overhang with a wood cornice and a wood-frame, flat-roof monitor. A single, metal door is in the west bay of the north elevation. Window openings in the north elevation have granite sills and are filled with fixed, translucent fiberglass panels. At least one window opening on the west elevation was filled with brick at an unknown date. Windows in the monitor are original six-light, wood, awning sash. A brick smokestack is attached to the west elevation of the boiler house. The smokestack has polychrome brick in an X-band near the top, under a corbelled band that flares slightly.

Gymnasium Annex

A Gymnasium Annex was constructed in 1952 connected to the north elevation of the 1915 Senior High School and the west (rear) elevation of the 1925 Senior High School Addition (Photograph 7). It has a shallow gable roof over the main block and a flat roof with a brick parapet and aluminum coping on the front entrance bay at the west end. The building has brick walls and a poured concrete foundation. The

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symmetrical west (facade) elevation has horizontal bands created by courses of projecting brick at the lower portion of the walls that extend around to the north ends of the east and west elevations. These are a nod to the similar bands on the original High School. The recessed entrance has curved walls surmounted by a deep, metal, cantilevered awning. There are three sets of modern, metal, double-leaf doors with windows in the upper half, the majority of which are now covered by modern plywood. Concrete panels that mimic eight-light windows flank the entrance bay. Thin, vertical, concrete fins are in the center of the facade above the entrances. Small, fixed-over-awning, aluminum windows are set between each fin. Large, rectangular windows with translucent fiberglass panels and concrete sills stretch across the upper portion of the north elevation.

Interior

The interior plan of the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools is primarily characterized in all areas and floor levels by double-loaded corridors with classrooms and special function rooms on either side (Photograph 8). Classrooms throughout the complex are typically large rectangular spaces with high ceilings and either one or two entrances per room. Vertical circulation is via stairs located at the ends and mid-points of the building blocks. In some places, ramps and short runs of steps correspond to intersections of buildings with different floor elevations. The current plan of the building remains largely unaltered since the gymnasium annex was constructed in 1952.

The interior finishes are largely uniform throughout the building. Floors throughout the complex are almost entirely covered with 12-inch composite tile, low-pile carpeting, or terrazzo tile, with some original wood floors still intact. Original wood floors are likely under the carpet and tiles in many rooms. The walls are primarily plaster over brick with wood chair rails. The ceilings are a combination of plaster and painted, pressed metal sheeting. Most classrooms retain their oak built-in cabinetry and closets with sliding panel doors and multi-light double-leaf cabinet doors, chair rails, paneling, and blackboards, and some have painted burlap wainscoting (Photographs 9 and 10). Stairwells throughout the school have steel risers and treads with steel balusters, wood handrails, and metal pipe handrails. The majority of the stairwells have painted or glazed brick walls. Bathrooms consist primarily of open rectangular spaces with wood or metal doors, stall dividers for toilets and showers (many have been removed), and modern porcelain fixtures. The bathrooms have a mix of terrazzo or glazed tile floors, painted brick or glazed tile walls, and modern drop ceilings. A mix of original built-in locker spaces and modern metal storage locker units are throughout the school. However, lockers have been removed from most of the built-in units. Modern hanging and fixed florescent lighting fixtures are located throughout the main spaces of the school complex.

Senior High School

The interior of the Senior High School is organized around an L-shaped, central, double-loaded corridor running east-west through the length of the building and north-south in the east portion of the building. The basement level consists of a boiler room in the upper northwest corner of the building, which is accessed by the basement corridor of the Gymnasium Annex. The boiler room contains some HVAC equipment and is used as storage. The first floor contains Physical Education offices, boys' and girls' locker rooms and bathrooms, the Health classroom, and a mix of small offices and storage closets. The second floor of the building is the main level and is accessed by the main entrance on the south elevation of the building. Specialty spaces on the second floor include the main entryway to the school, the library, and the administrative offices (Photograph 11). The library space is on the second floor and consists of four connected rooms in the central block and the large rectangular spaces in the northwest and southwest pavilions. The third and fourth floors consist of large classrooms and laboratory rooms with a handful of

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small offices and storage closets. Stair access to all floors is from stair wells in the east and west ends of the east-west corridor. The north-south corridor on the second through fourth floor and stairwells on the first floor connect the Senior High School to the 1925 Senior High School Addition.

Alterations to the original 1915 Senior High School plan occurred when the layout and use of the first through fourth floors were altered, presumably during or after the construction of the 1927 Junior High School. The alterations to the first floor included the conversion of the manual training classrooms and bathrooms in the front and rear pavilions of the building to use as offices, storage, and locker rooms; the conversion of the locker rooms at the front of the building into bathrooms; and the division and conversion of the original cooking room and small lunch room into a health classroom and girls' locker room. The second floor originally housed the principal's office north of the main entrance and rotunda, flanked by two recitation rooms, that were altered for use as a large library space. The original library, east of the main entrance, was divided into small guidance offices and a conference room. The two-story auditorium occupying the second floor of the central block of the building was retrofitted with classroom space in the 1920s or 1930s, most-likely after the construction of the Junior High School auditorium, when a separate auditorium space was not necessary and additional classroom space was a priority. The fourth floor originally had a lecture room and large commercial department space with a bank and typewriting room in the central block that are now classrooms and a science lab.

A typical classroom in the Senior High School has one entrance from the central east-west corridor (see Photograph 9). Built-in cabinets, consisting of wood drawers in the lower half and shelves in the upper half with multi-light, double-leaf cabinet doors, and closets are set in the interior east or west wall of the classroom space. A mix of markerboards and both slate and enameled porcelain chalkboards with wood trim line majority of the open walls. Most classrooms in the Senior High School have painted wood chair rails, picture rails, molding, and simple window surrounds. The classrooms in the central block on the third and fourth floors are smaller than the classrooms in the pavilions. These classrooms have two entrances from the central east-west corridor and connecting doorways to the classroom to the east or west. Rows of windows line the exterior walls of the classrooms to provide abundant natural light.

Original interior finish materials are present throughout the Senior High School. Flooring throughout the Senior High School is primarily 12-inch composite tile and low-pile carpeting. Walls consist primarily of plaster with natural oak chair rails and trim. Ceilings are a mix of pressed metal sheeting with decorative metal trim and plaster with oak trim. The second floor is the most decorative space in the Senior High School. The primary entryway from the south elevation of the Senior High School consists of terrazzo tile floor, marble steps and panels, and egg-and-dart pattern plaster molding. The administrative offices and central rotunda in the center of the senior high school are elaborately decorated in comparison to the upper floors. The central rotunda incorporates numerous oak decorative elements, consisting of trim and ceiling beams with denticulated cornices, chair rails, and pilasters (see Photograph 11). The library has floors surfaced with low-pile carpeting, textured plaster walls with chair rails, picture rails, and molding, and ceilings covered in a mix of modern acoustic tiles and pressed metal sheeting. The openings between the connected rooms of the library are wide, rectangular openings in the walls. An original safe remains in the administrative offices, as seen on the 1915 plans of the school (Figure 4). Doors throughout the Senior High School classrooms and offices are a mix of original and replacement wood panel doors with single-light upper sash of frosted and clear glass and rectangular transoms. Rooms on the second floor, most notably the former administrative offices and principal's office (now the library's main entrance), and some offices on the upper floors have more elaborate door surrounds than the classrooms through the use of sidelights with wood panel lower sash and two- or three-light upper sash and large, full-width rectangular transoms or multi-light transoms. Metal fire-rated doors are throughout the stairwells and hallways.

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1925 Senior High School Addition

The interior of the 1925 Senior High School Addition is organized with a hot lunch cafeteria on the first floor and central double-loaded corridors running north-south with two classrooms on either side on the second through fourth floors. The first floor also has a hot lunch kitchen west of the cafeteria and cooking and sewing classrooms are east of the cafeteria. The central corridors on each level have built-in metal locker units with wood trim, however many of the lockers within the school have been removed. A typical classroom in the Addition has two entrances from the central corridor and a connecting doorway between the classroom to the north or south. Built-in cabinets and closets are set in the north walls of the northern classrooms and the south walls of the southern classrooms. A mix of markerboards and chalkboards with wood trim line the majority of the open walls in each classroom, and rows of windows line the exterior walls of the classrooms to provide abundant natural light. Stair access to all floors is from the staircases in the southeast corner of the Addition and to the north end of the Addition from the stair tower connected to the Junior High School. The stair tower connection between the Junior High School and Addition is a unique feature of the school for its incorporation of ramps along the hallway to connect the differing floor heights of the two buildings and create a single stairwell for the both parts of the complex (Photograph 12). An interior accessibility ramp and staircase is set along the south end of the cafeteria and connects to the first floor of the Senior High School.

The finish materials throughout the Addition are mostly consistent with the other sections of the complex and typical classroom spaces. The majority of the Addition has 12-inch composite tile floors, exposed, painted or glazed brick walls in the stair halls, and plaster walls in the hallways. Ceilings throughout the classrooms and corridors are plaster with wood trim. The cafeteria has painted brick and glazed tile walls and ceilings covered by drop ceiling tile with a central lower space for utilities, supported by brick and concrete columns. The hot lunch kitchen's appliances have been removed, except for the centrally-located, large, industrial-grade, metal vent hoods hung from the ceiling within the long, rectangular space. Classrooms have wood panel doors with single-light upper sash and replacement metal swinging, double-leaf doors with single-light upper sash separate the Addition from the stair tower to the north.

Junior High School

The interior of the Junior High School is organized around a central, L-shaped, double-loaded corridor in the main block, east wing, and pavilion. Specialty spaces include the band, music, and art rooms on the second through fourth floors in the Junior High School entrance pavilion. The pavilion connects to the central double-loaded corridor running north-south on the first through third floor. The large spaces include the monumental main entrance foyer, the auditorium/cold lunch room, and the boys' and girls' gymnasium (Photographs 13-15). The basement of the pavilion consists primarily of the divided boys' and girls' gymnasium with office space, locker rooms, and bathrooms in the east end. The basement of the main block and east wing has central, double-loaded corridors with classroom spaces and shop classrooms on both sides. Balcony seating for the gym is set above the ancillary spaces in the east end of the gym and is accessed via stairs beneath the balcony. The Junior High School boiler house is west of the gyms and accessed by a long, L-shaped tunnel along the north perimeter of the gym. The boiler house consists of a large open space, a coal bin, and small office and storage spaces. Furnaces and other utility equipment are located in the main space of the boiler house. The first through third floors of the main block and east wing consist primarily of the central corridor flanked by rectangular classrooms, offices, and bathrooms. The auditorium is west of the pavilion and is accessible by the central corridor of the first floor of the pavilion, and the auditorium's

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balcony is accessed by the second-floor corridor of the pavilion. The central corridors on each level have sporadically placed metal lockers; however, many of the lockers within the school have been removed.

A typical classroom in the Junior High School has two entrances from the central corridor (see Photograph 10). Built-in cupboards with full-height rolling doors set in groups of three; built-in cabinets with lower wood panel cabinet doors, shallow wood counter tops, and upper shelves enclosed by four-light, double-leaf doors; and closets with shelves, coat hooks, and original wood panel doors, are set in the west or east walls of the classrooms in the main block and the south or north walls of the classrooms in the east wing. A mix of bulletin boards, markerboards, and a mix of original slate chalkboards and replacement enameled porcelain chalkboards with wood trim line majority of the open walls in each classroom. The shop classrooms in the basement level consist of large spaces with rows of open cupboards and cabinets along the walls, wood and metal work station tables, and wood-shop machinery with connected ventilation systems along the ceiling (Photograph 16). Two rows of hanging florescent lights line the length of the rooms. The band room, in the second floor of the pavilion, has an ornamental, metal railing at the entrance stairs and oak mopboard, a wide entablature, and pilasters. Paired windows with decorative wood surrounds and fixed multi-light sash are set in the north wall and separate the large band room space from a smaller office or classroom (Photograph 17). The entryway to the band room is an elaborate, oak door surround with a wide opening, flanked by wide sidelights with wood panel lower sash and upper sash infilled with wood. A tripartite transom filled with decorative leaded glass panels is set above the door and sidelights. The art rooms, located on the fourth floor of the pavilion, are accessible from the flanking stair towers. The art rooms are three, large, connected, rectangular spaces, with a small office and storage room east of the south stair tower (Photograph 18). The art rooms and office/storage space have built-in cabinets and cupboards identical to what is in the typical classroom of the Junior High School, except for the flat file drawers that were used to store large, flat, canvas or paper works of art and various art materials. The art rooms have covered chalkboards along the walls and oak chair rails, picture rails, and molding. Rows of windows line the exterior walls of the majority of the classrooms to provide abundant natural light.

Stair access to all floors is from the two stair towers that flank the entrance pavilion and from the stairwells in the east and west end of the corridor in the main block. The stair tower connection between the Junior High School and 1925 Senior High School Addition is a unique feature for its incorporation of ramps along the hallway to connect the differing floor heights of the buildings and create a single stairwell for the both parts of the complex (see Photograph 12). The pavilion is the primary entrance to the Junior High School and a secondary entrance is in the main block, set centrally in the north wall of the first floor. The fourth floor of the pavilion is only accessible from the two flanking stair towers. Metal spiral staircases are in the northwest and southwest corners of the gym to access the stage wings in the auditorium on the first floor. An elevator is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of the main block and east wing corridors and operates between the first through third floors. There are no substantial alterations to the Junior High School plan. However, the auditorium seating in the Junior High School was removed, but the sloped floor on the ground level was retained to convert the space into a cafeteria. A small, one-story, interior accessibility ramp was constructed on the first story on the west elevation of the 1927 Junior High School central block, to provide access between the 1925 Senior High School Addition's hot lunch room and 1927 Junior High School's auditorium.

The most highly finished spaces are in the 1927 Junior High School. The entrance foyer has white marble floors, with some areas covered by low pile carpeting, and black marble mopboard (see Photograph 13). Walls consist of white marble wainscoting and painted white marble tile walls. The entrance foyer has a cove plaster ceiling with deep corbeled molding, molded plaster details with fluting and floral motifs, and three elaborate brass hanging light fixtures. Three recessed entrances are set in the west wall of the foyer

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with black marble trim, marble paneled walls, and a ceiling panel with a simple decorative motif of a central circle bounded by rectangular trim. Set in the entrances are swinging, double-leaf, multi-light, oak doors. Wood transoms are above doors and mimic the decorative motif set in the ceiling of the recessed entries. The auditorium has polychromatic molded and painted plaster decoration in two shades of blue, with gold and red accents, on the walls, ceiling, balcony railing, and the proscenium arch (see Photograph 14). Walls have wood paneling and pilasters with fluted capitals; decorative wood beams run the length and width of the ceiling; and a modillion cornice lines the walls and beams throughout the space. An alternating pattern of fluting and floral motifs line the proscenium arch and Greek key patterns line the ceiling beams. Swags are set between the paired pilaster capitals that flank the stage and modillion cornice. Eight, original metal and glass hanging lights remain, with no evidence of others being removed, and original cast metal and wood seats are in the balcony. The stage platform has wood paneling along the front face and wood flooring and is accessed from the auditorium by stairs flanking the stage and from backstage by two doors set in the stage wings. The stage has plaster walls with paneling, a curtain backdrop, and simple panel wood doors with a decorative medallion set above. The boys' and girls' gym are divided into two spaces by a floor-to-ceiling, sliding, wood panel room divider and has windows set in the upper portion of the wall to provide natural light in the basement space (see Photograph 15). Floors surfaces consist primarily of terrazzo tile in the hallways and 12-inch composite tile in the majority of the other spaces. Wood floor surfaces are in the shop classrooms, boys' and girls' gymnasium below the auditorium, the balcony of the auditorium, and a few small offices. The shop floors are badly buckled from water damage. Wall finish materials include glazed tile, unpainted, painted, and glazed brick, and plaster with oak chair railings and trim. Many of the classrooms in the Junior High School also have painted burlap wainscoting. Ceilings are plaster in the hallways and gym, pressed metal sheeting in classrooms, and modern acoustic tile in the auditorium. Doors throughout the Junior High School are a mix of original and replacement, wood, panel doors with single-light upper sash and rectangular transoms, and replacement, metal, fire-rated doors in the stairwells and hallways. Many of the offices have more elaborate door surrounds consisting of wood panel doors with single-light upper sash and multi-light sidelights with large rectangular transoms.

Gymnasium Annex

The interior of the Gymnasium Annex consists of a basement divided into smaller spaces and a first floor with a large gymnasium. The basement has a central north-south corridor with the boys' locker/changing room, bathroom, small office space for the coach, and storage rooms in the west portion of the level and the girls' locker/changing room and bathroom in the east portion of the level. The boiler room, beneath the Senior High School, is accessed by a staircase in the south end of the basement corridor. The first floor is dominated by a large gym with a central movable divider running north-south (Photograph 19). Balcony seating is in the east and west ends of the gym with two stairwells set beneath each balcony to provide access to all levels of the Annex. The main entrance to the gym is in the west end of the first floor beneath the balcony seating and secondary entrances to the Senior High School's first floor and 1925 Senior High School Addition's first floor are set in the east and south walls of the gym.

Original finish materials throughout the Gym Annex include the wood gym floor and a mix of concrete and terrazzo tile flooring in the basement. The gym floor is badly buckled from water damage. Walls are unpainted and painted brick and glazed tile in buff, light green, and black colors. The main entrance to the Gym Annex has terrazzo tile flooring, glazed tile walls, wood panel ceiling tiles, and modern metal doors to the exterior. Original and replacement bathroom fixtures, including at least one large soapstone basin sink, and room dividers are located in the boys' and girls' areas of the basement. Retractable wood and metal bleachers are set along the north and south walls of the first level and three bleachers are set in rows in both balconies. Metal pipe hand rails line are set along the stairs and balconies. The gym can be divided

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into two spaces with a metal and wood retractable divider that is attached to the ceiling by a metal support system. Metal ductwork for the school's HVAC system are set along the south wall of the gym. Original, panel wood doors, some with circular or rectangular openings in the upper portion, are set in pairs and individually throughout the Annex. Industrial style, mid-to-late-twentieth century lighting fixtures hang from the metal gym ceiling and florescent lighting fixtures are set in the drop ceilings of the basement.

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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

1915-1967

Significant Dates

1915 – construction of Senior High School

1925 – construction of Senior High School Addition

1927 – construction of Junior High School

1952 – construction of Gymnasium Annex

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

1915, 1925, 1927 – Walter F. Fontaine

1952 – Oliver Fontaine

1915 – Eastern Construction Company

1925 – John F. Fleurant and Sons

1927 – Lameroux Bros.

1952 – A.F. Smiley Construction

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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 Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools, also known as the Woonsocket Middle School, possesses significance at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Education and at the state level under Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance begins in 1915, when the first component of the complex was constructed, and ends in 1967, the current 50-year cutoff date for National Register eligibility. Under Criterion A, the building is significant for its association with the early twentieth century development of Woonsocket's public-school system and as the school where all Woonsocket children received secondary education for 95 years. When originally constructed, it was one of the first schools to integrate technical trades and domestic sciences instruction. The Junior High School, built on the north elevation of the Senior High School in 1927, was the first junior high school in Woonsocket. Following the construction of the current Woonsocket High School in 1972, the school served as the Woonsocket Junior High School until 1991–1993 when it transitioned over two school years to become the Woonsocket Middle School. It remained in use as a middle school until 2009 when it closed.

Under Criterion C, the building is an extraordinarily large example of civic school architecture that exhibits well-designed characteristics of an early twentieth-century American educational facility, designed in the formal Classical Revival style by prolific Woonsocket architect Walter F. Fontaine, with a gymnasium addition by his son Oliver Fontaine. The school was built over time at the height of Woonsocket's prosperity, and, when it closed, it was said to be the largest middle school in New England.

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

CRITERION A – EDUCATION

Woonsocket Development and Education

Woonsocket was established in 1867 as a political entity when the villages of Woonsocket Falls, Social, and Jenckesville separated from the Town of Cumberland. In 1871, the villages of Globe, Bernon, and Hamlet were annexed from Smithfield to Woonsocket, and the current city boundary configuration was created; the City of Woonsocket was officially incorporated in 1888. The population of the newly formed city steadily increased through the 1890s due to the growth of industry and the influx of immigrants who came to work in the mills. Between 1890 and 1900, the population of Woonsocket grew approximately 35%, from 20,830 to 28,204 residents. By 1910, there were approximately 10,000 additional residents in the city, bringing the total population to 38,125 residents (RISP 2010). At the turn of the twentieth century, Woonsocket's cotton mills were "among the foremost in the area" (Fortin 1988:25). This achievement was primarily due to the work of future Woonsocket mayor and Rhode Island Governor Aram J. Pothier (1854–1928), who was the state delegate to the Paris Trade Exposition in 1893. While in France, Pothier met with several French and Belgian textiles manufactures and encouraged them to establish mills in Woonsocket. The companies could avoid paying high tariffs to sell their wares in the United States, utilize a large, skilled, French-speaking workforce already living in the city, and take advantage of tax incentives offered by the city of Woonsocket for the relocation. Woonsocket's industrial economy was primarily centered around textiles in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and there were also several substantial machinery and rubber companies (Fortin 1988:11–37).

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The immigrant population that came to Woonsocket was primarily French-Canadian until the turn of the twentieth century, when there was a large influx of eastern Europeans including Poles, Italians, Ukrainians, Romanians, and Russians. All of the immigrant populations primarily worked in the numerous factories throughout the city. Children, especially those from large French-Canadian immigrant families, made up a sizable percentage of the workforce in the textile mills (Fortin 1988:36–37). However, between 1890 and 1910, mill-worker families' standards of living rose and many more women and children were able to remain at home. The use of child labor in the mills was on a steady decline overall in Rhode Island at this time. Reformers active during the Progressive Era in the United States, which is generally considered to be between 1890 and 1920, were able to pass a new child labor law in 1906 in Rhode Island that set the minimum working age at 14 (Strom 1980:44).

Legislation to encourage the creation of public schools in Rhode Island began in 1828, when state money was first allocated to public education. Prior to this time, the only free public-school system in Rhode Island was in Providence (Flaherty 1970:1). During the 1820s, when Woonsocket was part of the town of Smithfield, Union Village, which now straddles the border between Woonsocket and North Smithfield, had a private school (RIHPC 1976:8). The 1828 law empowered each town, with the exception of Providence, to collect taxes for schools and to create a school committee (Flaherty 1970:35). Rhode Island moved into the vanguard of educational reform in the 1840s under the leadership of Henry Barnard (1811–1900), at a time when new school designs were published and widely distributed throughout New England. Barnard was an early advocate for public education and a pioneer in education reform in Rhode Island. Originally from Connecticut, Barnard came to Rhode Island in 1843 to serve as an agent of the public schools (Flaherty 1970:55; Knight 1929:218–219). He assessed the current state of education and the conditions of Rhode Island schools, and sponsored a new law passed in 1845 that established the office of the Commissioner of Public Schools, required an examination in order to teach, and gave school districts control of taxing for education, hiring teachers, and maintaining school buildings (Flaherty 1970:59–60, 64).

The 1845 law also mandated the establishment of an institute for teacher training in order to improve the quality of teachers. Rhode Island was the first state to require this certification (Carbone 1971:409–410). The Rhode Island Normal School was established in 1854 in Providence, providing a formal public education for teachers (Carbone 1971:412–413). The school was suspended in 1865, and from 1866–1870 the state provided a variety of academies for teacher training classes. The Normal School reopened in 1871 and established a model training school in 1893. The school continued to thrive after the turn of the century and became the Rhode Island College of Education in 1920 (Carbone 1971:414).

Barnard initiated many changes in education, including creating a structured system of students assigned to classes according to age and ability, and advocating for expanded primary and higher education curriculum (Flaherty 1970: 74, 80, 82–83). In addition, he established guidelines for improved schoolhouse design and construction (Flaherty 1970:67). Concerned with child labor, he advocated for the education of mill children, especially at the grammar school level (Flaherty 1970:98).

Retiring from the position of Rhode Island Commissioner of Public Schools in 1849 due to illness, Barnard returned to Connecticut for four years before reentering the field of education reform. He established the American Association for the Advancement of Education in 1855, published the *American Journal of Education*, and in 1867, became the United States Commissioner of Education (Knight 1929:220). By the early twentieth century, when the Woonsocket Senior High School was constructed, Barnard's ideas were well established in the design and operation of Rhode Island public schools.

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In 1858, a new civic center, then known as the Harris Block and later as Harris Institute and City Hall, was constructed in Woonsocket. The second floor of the building housed a "Sunday school," which served as a secular, free school that offered instruction to mill workers in reading and writing on their day off (RIHPC 1976:21). By the mid-to-late 1800s, Catholic schools were established throughout Rhode Island to educate the growing populations of Catholic residents in many towns and cities. By 1869, Catholic education, at all educational stages, was well established in Woonsocket, with the founding of the Saint Michael's High School at the Saint Charles parish. The parochial schools primarily served the large and growing French-Canadian population at the time and were one of the only alternatives to public education for the city's youth (Conley and Smith 1976:74-75, 106). By the 1880s, the Precious Blood parish operated a school that attracted large numbers of French-Canadian youth. The extant school at 61 Park Avenue (Chateau Clare, no longer a school, NR listed 1982), was constructed in 1895, and a large wing was added ca.1911 (Chase 1982; Conley and Smith 1976:106). After Woonsocket was incorporated as a town in 1871, several elementary schools, including the Grove Street, Hope Street, Summer Street, and Kendrick Avenue schools, were constructed to accommodate the growing population of the town and in accordance with the state laws regarding public schools (RIHPC 1976:36).

Changes to education in Woonsocket began in the late nineteenth century and included programs like the implementation of the Rachel Harris Manual Training School in 1895, which established woodworking classes for boys and sewing classes for girls in public schools. A dedicated fund paid for the teachers and materials for the program. Physical education and kindergarten were also started in the city in the 1890s. Frank Emerson McFee, who served as superintendent of schools between 1886 and 1915, documented that eight new public elementary schools and eight parochial schools were built between 1891 and 1899 in Woonsocket. He also reported that the public-school population rose from over 3,200 in 1876 to over 6,400 in 1900, which correlated with the increase in the overall population of the city in those decades (Fortin 1988:25-26). To accommodate education for those children still working in the mills during the day, the city also operated evening schools. In 1913, there were six evening schools, including at the high school level, in Woonsocket (Crowley-Bacon Collection n.d.).

Improvements to Woonsocket's infrastructure that began in the late nineteenth century facilitated movement around the city. By 1910, mass transportation, primarily in the form of streetcars, ran throughout the city and into nearby communities. People could travel easily and safely between neighborhoods, which for the first time allowed residents to live in one place and work or go to school in another. When Raphael P. Daignault was elected mayor in 1911, after years of limited conservative spending, the city began to initiate public works projects, including the construction of new bridges, highways, sewers, and civic and institutional buildings. In 1912, public utilities were provided by the Blackstone Valley Gas & Electric Company (Fortin 1988:46-55).

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The first public high school in Woonsocket was constructed on Boyden Street in 1877, 10 years after the town was established, and originally housed the high school and upper grammar school grades. The high school took over the entire building in 1902 when an elementary school was constructed on Earle Street. In 1901, appeals by the School Committee to the City Council for the construction of a new stand-alone high school began in earnest. The existing school was deemed "inadequate, both in space and in fitness for modern high school requirements" (SCCW 1915:17). The campaign continued until 1915 when funds were finally appropriated (SCCW 1915:17; Crowley-Bacon Collection n.d.). The construction of the Woonsocket High School on Park Place was thought to be one of "the most significant and lasting municipal improvements to be planned and constructed during Mayor Daignault's administration" (Fortin 1988:55).

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Several sites for the location of the new high school were considered, including the Edward Harris Estate off Harris Avenue, the Paine-Ronain property on South Main Street near Mason Street, and the “Bouvier” parcel, previously owned by Bouvier & Gaulin, on Park Place in the Villa Nova neighborhood. In 1913, the School Committee purchased the Bouvier land, a park which was located near the geographic center of the city, for \$20,000.

Bouvier & Gaulin was a real estate investment and development company formed in 1884 by Joseph Bouvier and Alphonse Gaulin, Sr. Joseph Bouvier was born in 1845 in Quebec and immigrated to Woonsocket with his parents in 1863 at the age of 18. He had attended St. Hyacinthe College in Quebec prior to his family’s relocation. Upon arrival, Bouvier worked in the mills in Woonsocket, but by 1865 he was employed in the grocery business in Woonsocket and Manville (Lincoln), Rhode Island. Alphonse Gaulin, Sr. was born in 1845 in Quebec and immigrated to Woonsocket with his parents in 1866 at the age of 21. He was educated in Quebec prior to his family’s relocation. Upon arrival, Gaulin worked in the mills in Woonsocket and was later employed by and then bought the Sylvestry Grocery Store of Woonsocket. By the 1890s, after Bouvier and Gaulin formed their partnership, the company owned hundreds of acres in Woonsocket, most notably Villa Nova, and built numerous commercial buildings in the city. Villa Nova, is the neighborhood where Bouvier built a large estate for himself and where Bouvier & Gaulin owned the land in the center of Park Place, known as Villa Nova Park, which was purchased by the School Committee. Alphonse Gaulin, Sr. died on April 27, 1900. Joseph Bouvier died on New Year’s Day 1904. The status of the company remains unclear following the death of Bouvier and Gaulin (Fortin 1988:55; Beers 1908:1805, 1835–1836).

The City engaged native son Walter F. Fontaine (1871–1938) as the architect for the Senior High School building. For the construction, the City hired Eastern Construction Company as the general contractors, and the cornerstone was laid on January 9, 1914 (SCCW 1915:10). The building was formally dedicated April 5, 1915, and immediately used as a school. A 1915 newspaper article described the new facility as “imposing, convenient, spacious, and a monument to the community” (quoted in Fortin 1988:165). The curriculum of the new high school was reflected in the design of the building, which provided spaces for both college preparatory courses and commercial courses. The School Committee recognized that in contemporary times, not all students attending high school were planning or able to attend college after graduation, and believed that “combined high school-trade school courses give the graduate the advantage of a general high school education while they, at the same time, fit him for a definite trade” (SCCW 1915:20). Therefore, the new high school offered general courses of study, domestic science courses including sewing and cooking, and technical instruction in a machine shop, a wood working department, textile industries, and electrical engineering. The building and property also provided a gym and an athletic field to conform to a belief in the importance of teaching physical education in public schools (SCCW 1915:17–20).

In 1925, to address a need for more classroom space, a 12-room addition was constructed on the east end of the north elevation of the Senior High School for approximately \$140,000. The addition was occupied starting on January 8, 1926. Architect Walter F. Fontaine also designed the addition, and the general contractors were John P. Fleurant and Sons of Woonsocket. Additional contractors were Lincoln and Lane (heating and ventilation), Bouvier-Brien (plumbing), and William F. Plause (electrical wiring) (Crowley-Bacon Collection n.d.; SCCW 1925:739).

Continuing student population growth further spurred the development of plans for a new Junior High School, designed by Walter F. Fontaine and attached to the rear of the 1915 Senior High School. The

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construction contract went to general contractors Lamoureux Brothers of Woonsocket (SCCW 1926:834). Additional contracts were awarded to Raoul Renaud for plumbing and Electric Maintenance and Engineering Works for the electrical wiring. Construction began in 1926, and the school was opened for use in September 1927 (Crowley-Bacon Collection n.d.). The large Junior High School had 67 classrooms in an L-plan structure, a 1,200-seat auditorium, a boys' and girls' gymnasium under the auditorium, and a new boiler house. The building was formally dedicated March 1, 1928 in a ceremony attended by state and city politicians (Fortin 1988:84). Property for the development of new athletic fields, which became Barry Memorial Field, was acquired on Smithfield Avenue (approximately 1.5 miles away) due to the loss of the 1915 fields when the new Junior High was constructed.

In 1951–1952, the City engaged Walter F. Fontaine's son, architect Oliver Fontaine, to design a new gymnasium to replace the smaller 1915 facility on the north elevation of the Senior High School. The general contract for the gymnasium was awarded to A.F. Smiley Construction, with subcontracts for plumbing awarded to Raoul Renaud Company, heating to Frank Dupuis Company, and electrical to Electric Maintenance and Engineering Works (SCCW 1950).

The "massive and intentionally impressive civic structure" (RIHPC 1976:73) of the Woonsocket combined Senior and Junior High Schools served as Woonsocket's only public school for these secondary education grades until 1972. According to an undated report by Mayor Kevin C. Coleman written during his six terms as mayor of Woonsocket from 1953–1963, Woonsocket had 16 elementary schools that fed into the middle school (968 students) and high school (619 students), with a total of a 4,716-students in the system (Coleman n.d.:9).

By the late 1960s, the school was considered to be "inadequate, crowded, and outmoded" (Fortin 1988:165). School scheduling transitioned from extended day to double sessions, and increased enrollment was projected for the future. Following several studies and much local debate regarding the costs and benefits of building a replacement four-year or three-year high school, a new \$6.5 million, three-year senior high school was completed in 1972 on Cass Avenue (Fortin 1988:165). The former High School section was dedicated to ninth grade, the Junior High School section was dedicated to seventh and eighth grades, and the physical plant of the entire senior high and junior high complex was upgraded at that time. However, the library in the High School section, cafeterias, and a handful of the specialized classrooms were used by all grades. Seventh and eighth graders used the Junior High School gymnasium, and ninth graders used the 1952 gymnasium annex (Henderson 2016; Emidy 2016).

Until the early 1990s, the school remained in use as a junior high school, with ninth grade in the former High School section and seventh and eighth grades in the Junior High School section. During the 1991–1992 school year, the Woonsocket Education Department began to transition ninth grade into the high school, with half of all ninth graders attending the high school while the other half remained at the Woonsocket Senior and Junior High Schools. By the following school year, all ninth graders attended the high school, and the Woonsocket Senior and Junior High Schools became the Woonsocket Middle School (Henderson 2017; Emidy 2017).

In the early 2000s, largely due to overcrowding, health concerns, and a need for a modern and efficient school facility, the Woonsocket Education Department decided to construct two identical middle schools to the west of the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools. In 2009, upon the completion of the new schools (Woonsocket Middle School at Villa Nova and Woonsocket Middle School at Hamlet), the 1,760 middle school students were moved to the new buildings. Following this relocation, the Woonsocket

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Senior High and Junior High Schools closed after 94 years as the city's only senior high, then junior high, and later middle school (Ai3 2015).

In 2013, former students produced a one-hour video homage to the history of the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools building and the activities and experiences of generations of students, administrators, and teachers (Gabrielson and Allard 2013). Thousands of students attended the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools over the years, since the school remained open for such an extended period of time as the only public junior and senior high school in the city. It is also likely that three to four generations of the same family attended the school, regardless of the area of Woonsocket they lived in (Emidy 2016).

When compared to secondary education facilities in similar size communities in the state, Woonsocket's combined monolithic public junior and senior high school appears to have been unique. Other medium-sized Rhode Island cities with populations roughly comparable to Woonsocket—including Warwick, Cranston, and Pawtucket—have two or more public junior high schools and one or more public senior high schools (RISP 2010). Warwick currently has two junior high schools and two high schools (Warwick 2017). The city constructed a new high school building in 1926, following the destruction of an earlier high school by fire in 1924. In 1934–1935, the city constructed a new high school in the northeast portion of the city (Aldrich Junior High, 789 Post Road, closed 2015). An additional high school was constructed in 1939 (Gorton Junior High School, 69 Draper Avenue, closed 2015, now School Administration Offices). All three of these former high schools later served as junior high schools following the subsequent opening of the newer separate high school building. In the early 1950s, Warwick constructed the Warwick Veterans Memorial High School at 2401 West Shore Road (Junior High School since ca. 2015). By the 1960s and 1970s, two additional high schools were constructed to accommodate the growing population of the city and both serve as the current high schools for the city (Pilgrim High School, 111 Pilgrim Parkway, and Toll Gate High School, 575 Centerville Road) (Warwick 2017; RIHPC 1981:42–43, 47). Cranston currently has four middle schools and three high schools (Cranston 2017). The William A. Briggs School, 865 Park Avenue (former Cranston High School), was constructed in 1904 and served as the city's high school until 1927, when a new separate high school was constructed and the Briggs School became a junior high school. It now is used as the Cranston School Administration Offices. Cranston High School East, 899 Park Avenue, was constructed in 1927 as the city's primary high school, and Cranston High School West, 80 Metropolitan Avenue, was constructed in 1957 as the city's second high school (Cranston 2017; RIHPC 1980:72–73, 76). Pawtucket currently has three junior high schools and three senior high schools (Pawtucket 2017). The former Pawtucket High School, 280 Broadway, was constructed in 1895–1897, is now a senior housing facility. The Pawtucket Senior High School (later the Pawtucket East High School, and now the William E. Tolman Senior High School), 150 Exchange Street, was constructed in 1926 as the city's second high school. The Pawtucket West High School (Charles E. Shea High School), 485 East Avenue, was constructed in 1938 as the third high school in the city (RIHPC 1978:47, 50–51). Presumably student attendance at the schools in these cities, where there is more than one school for each educational stage, was and still is based on location of residency. In many instances schools that were constructed in the early to mid-twentieth century as high schools were later converted for use as junior high schools, similar to Woonsocket Senior High School. However, unlike the cities of comparable size, Woonsocket is unique for only having one senior and junior high school in the city that remained in use for nearly 100 years.

As of 2017, the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools complex remains vacant but secure and in good to fair condition. The City is actively pursuing a plan to ensure a new use and revitalization of this important and locally iconic building.

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CRITERION C – ARCHITECTURE

American High School Architecture and the Classical Revival Style

The basic design principles for American public schools were developed primarily in urban areas, where large numbers of primary, grammar, and high school buildings were first constructed following the establishment of the public-school system in 1837. American architects were guided by European precedents for graded school plans, specifically German and Austrian models in which each graded class was assigned to an individual classroom (versus the French and English method of assembling the entire school in one large hall for general recitations). Schools in the United States also adopted the Swiss practices of providing “wardrobes” adjoining each classroom to accommodate students’ coats and outdoor clothing, and individual desks for each student (Joes et. al 2012).

By the early twentieth century, most school construction in the United States was dictated by certain safety and health regulations, including fireproofing of stairs, specifics regarding placement and number of exits, the amount of floor space and cubic space allotted to each student, ceiling height, proper lighting, amount of outside window area, and heating, ventilation, and sanitation. The original plans for the Woonsocket High School were prepared to conform to the “best in recent construction and to the needs of our own city” (SCCW 1915:17). In 1915, the SCCW published a report for the Senior High School which contained Walter Fontaine’s plans. From these plans, the layout of the main block of the building retains its overall layout of a double-loaded corridor with a central rotunda flanked by classrooms and administrative spaces on the first floor, and classrooms on the third floor. These classrooms have built-in closet spaces associated with each room. The second-floor auditorium was divided into classrooms in the mid-twentieth century. The original 1915 gymnasium had a gallery which could also be used as a running track, ample and modern skylights to provide natural lighting, and enough space to play indoor basketball and baseball (SCCW 1915:11). Although original plans for the Junior High School have not been located, the entire building appears to retain much of its original interior layout of a double-loaded corridor with classrooms, small offices, and teacher rooms on either side. Spaces were designed specifically to accommodate a curriculum of music and art as well.

The exterior of the Woonsocket Senior and Junior High Schools exhibit many characteristics of the Classical Revival style, which gained popularity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This period of eclecticism in American architecture was encouraged by the major national expositions, such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, which celebrated the Classical Revival style. American architects like Walter Fontaine, who travelled and trained in Europe, were influenced by the approach taught at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris that emphasized order, symmetry, formal design, and elaborate ornamentation. These architects showcased and popularized historical interpretations of European architectural styles in their work in the United States (Bhaskaran 2005:58). Common Classical Revival-style elements, consisting of block massing, symmetry of elements and facade, and extensive use of classically inspired columns and other ornamental details, are seen throughout the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools.

Most contemporary Rhode Island public junior and senior high schools were designed in the Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, or Gothic Revival styles. Many of the Classical Revival-style schools throughout the state are excellent examples of the style and incorporate its common design elements, including block massing, symmetry, and classically inspired ornamental details, such as columns, pavilions, cornices, and window and door hoods. Examples of other Classical Revival-style schools include the William A. Briggs

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School (former Cranston High School, 865 Park Avenue) by architect Edward Thomas Banning and built in 1904 in Cranston (RIHPC 1980:44) and Nathan Bishop Middle School (101 Sessions Street), one of many Providence public schools designed by the Office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings in 1929 (RIHPC 1986:221). Both of these schools include many of the character-defining elements of the Classical Revival style and are large-scale complexes with prominent central pavilions similar to Woonsocket Junior High School. While there are a significant number of large Classical Revival-style junior and senior high schools in the state, Woonsocket is unusual in combining the two education stages in one massive complex. Unlike many of the other large complexes of similar style and massing that were constructed in one phase for one education stage, Woonsocket was constructed in multiple phases for the use of different education stages.

Walter F. Fontaine

Walter F. Fontaine (1871–1938) was arguably the most notable architect in Woonsocket and was well-known throughout southern New England. Fontaine's father, John B. Fontaine, was born in 1836, and emigrated from Saint Hyacinthe, Quebec to Woonsocket in 1857. John Fontaine became a notable builder in the city, constructing the original Saint Ann's Church, Convent, and Gymnasium. Walter Fontaine was born in Woonsocket in 1871, attended Woonsocket public schools, and began his architecture training in 1887 when he studied with Woonsocket-based architect and civil engineer Willard Kent. After working under Kent for five years, Fontaine studied architecture in France, later returning to Rhode Island, where he worked for the prominent architectural firm of Stone, Carpenter & Wilson in Providence from 1893–1903. Fontaine returned to Woonsocket in 1903, forming the firm of Fontaine & Kinnicutt, with Elmer H. Kinnicutt. The company's first commissioned works were a commercial building on Main Street and a police station of Front Street. In 1906, Fontaine traveled to France to study the factory designs of the Tiberghien and Sons Company, a renowned French-textile company, in order to design the French Worsted Company buildings in Woonsocket for Tiberghien and Sons Co. (1906, Hamlet Avenue, NR listed 2008, NRIS# 08000453, no longer extant). Fontaine and Kinnicutt worked together until Kinnicutt's death in 1910 (Fontaine 1976; Fortin 1988; W.F. Fontaine and Sons n.d.; Withey and Withey 1956:214).

Fontaine designed at least five public schools in the city, including Second Avenue School (196 Second Avenue, extant), Pothier School (1909, 1044 Social Street, extant), McFee School (1916, 108 High Street, extant), Fifth Avenue School (1917, 65 Fifth Avenue, extant), additions to the Willow Street School (1925, location undetermined), and additions to the Earle Street School (1926, location undetermined). He also designed a fire station, at least four church buildings, the Police Station (1904), the Woonsocket Y.M.C.A (1909), First Methodist Church (1909), Saint Ann's Church (1914), Union St. Jean Baptiste building (1926), Saint Ann's Gymnasium, Mount Saint Charles Academy, Holy Family Church, Our Lady of Victories Church, and the Governor Aram Jules Pothier Mausoleum in the Precious Blood Cemetery in Woonsocket. Other buildings in Rhode Island he designed include: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Buildings in Providence (1905), the Rhode Island Institute for the Deaf, State Tuberculosis Hospital in Burrillville (ca. 1920), St. Charles Borromeo Church in Providence (ca.1930). Fontaine also designed numerous Roman Catholic complexes (including churches, rectories, convents, schools, and hospitals), civic, industrial (including numerous textile factory buildings), commercial, and residential buildings throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut (Fontaine 1976; Fortin 1988; W.F. Fontaine and Sons n.d.; Withey and Withey 1956:214).

Fontaine's sons, Paul N. and Oliver W., began working in Fontaine's firm in the 1920s. In 1935, when they were made partners, the firm of W.F. Fontaine & Sons was established and continued to be operated by the two brothers until 1948. In addition to a successful architecture career, Fontaine also served as a member of the Town Council, Board of Licenses, and the Park Commission in Woonsocket, and later served on the

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools

Providence Cty, RI

Name of Property

County and State

State Planning Board. Fontaine died during the Hurricane of 1938 at his summer home in Charlestown, Rhode Island and is buried in the Precious Blood Cemetery in Woonsocket (Fontaine 1976; Fortin 1988; W.F. Fontaine and Sons n.d.; Withey and Withey 1956:214).

Fontaine-designed schools are predominately in the Classical Revival style, of similar massing and form, and include decorative elements that are commonly used in the Classical Revival style. Fontaine schools are typically two to four stories tall over raised basements, in rectangular or H-shaped forms, with flat or hip roofs and prominent deeply molded cornices. They have brick walls with stone or concrete foundations and trim. Fontaine often incorporated elaborate stone door surrounds and hoods and simple decorative brickwork patterns in his designs. In comparison to other schools he designed, the Woonsocket Senior and Junior High Schools incorporate many of the elements seen in his other schools. However, they are two of the more decorative and elaborate public schools designed by Fontaine. The Woonsocket Junior High School pavilion is a unique element that is not typically seen in Fontaine school designs.

Oliver W. Fontaine

Oliver W. Fontaine (1900–2000), son of Walter F. Fontaine, was born in 1900. He attended the Lowell Technological Institute and upon graduating in 1920, he worked at his father's architecture firm. According to the 1940 Woonsocket city directory, Oliver was the acting president and treasurer of the company and Paul was the secretary. Oliver later began working on his own by 1948, moving his office to Providence.

He worked on his own until sometime between 1956 and 1962, While working for his own firm between 1956-1962, he became known for his ecclesiastical designs in the Providence area. Some of his notable works include: the Ramseur Worsted Mills (1952); High School Gym in Woonsocket (1952); Saint Jeanne D'Arc School, Lowell, Massachusetts (1953); Woonsocket Housing Project (1954); Saint Louis Church, Lowell, Massachusetts; and Saint Mary's School, Marlboro, Massachusetts (1955). In addition to working as an architect, Oliver was a member on the board of directors of the Woonsocket Y.M.C.A. and the Wrentham Public Library (Bowker 1956:176; Bowker 1962:219–220; *Providence Journal* 2000). Oliver entered into a partnership in 1962, establishing the firm of Fontaine & Del Sesto. He continued working as an architect until 1965 when he retired. He died in Wrentham, Massachusetts, at the age of 100, in 2000, and is buried in Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, Rhode Island (Bowker 1956:176; Bowker 1962:219–220; Ancestry.com 1920, 2000; Polk 1940, 1949, 1951, 1964).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools

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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: Crowley-Bacon Room Collection. Woonsocket High School, Woonsocket, RI; Museum of Work and Culture, Woonsocket, RI; Woonsocket Harris Public Library, Woonsocket, RI; Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, RI

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools
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Providence Cty, RI
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.82 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 42.004423

Longitude: -71.504650

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.)

The boundaries of the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools encompass City Assessor's Parcel 113 on Plat Map 27, which contains a total land area of 2.82 acres within the central area of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and is bounded by Park Place.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are the historic lot lines associated with the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools at 357 Park Place. The boundaries follow legally recorded property lines.

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools
Name of Property

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Quinn R. Stuart/Architectural Historian, Virginia H. Adams/Senior Architectural Historian, Melissa J. Andrade/Architectural Historian, and Michelle Johnstone/Assistant Architectural Historian

organization: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL)

street & number: 26 Main Street

city or town: Pawtucket state: Rhode Island zip code: 02860

e-mail vadams@palinc.com

telephone: (401) 728-8780

date: July 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

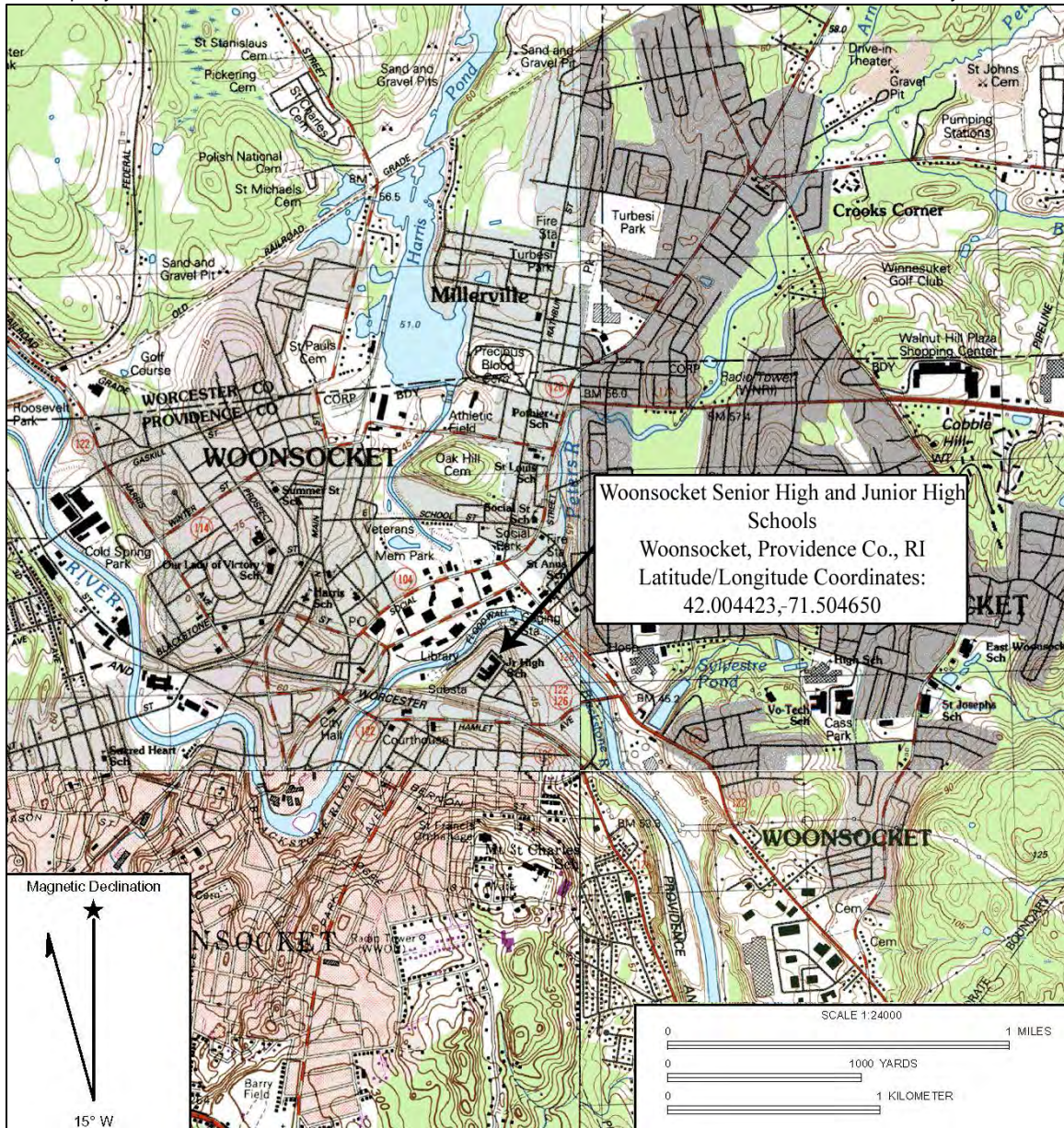
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any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

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools

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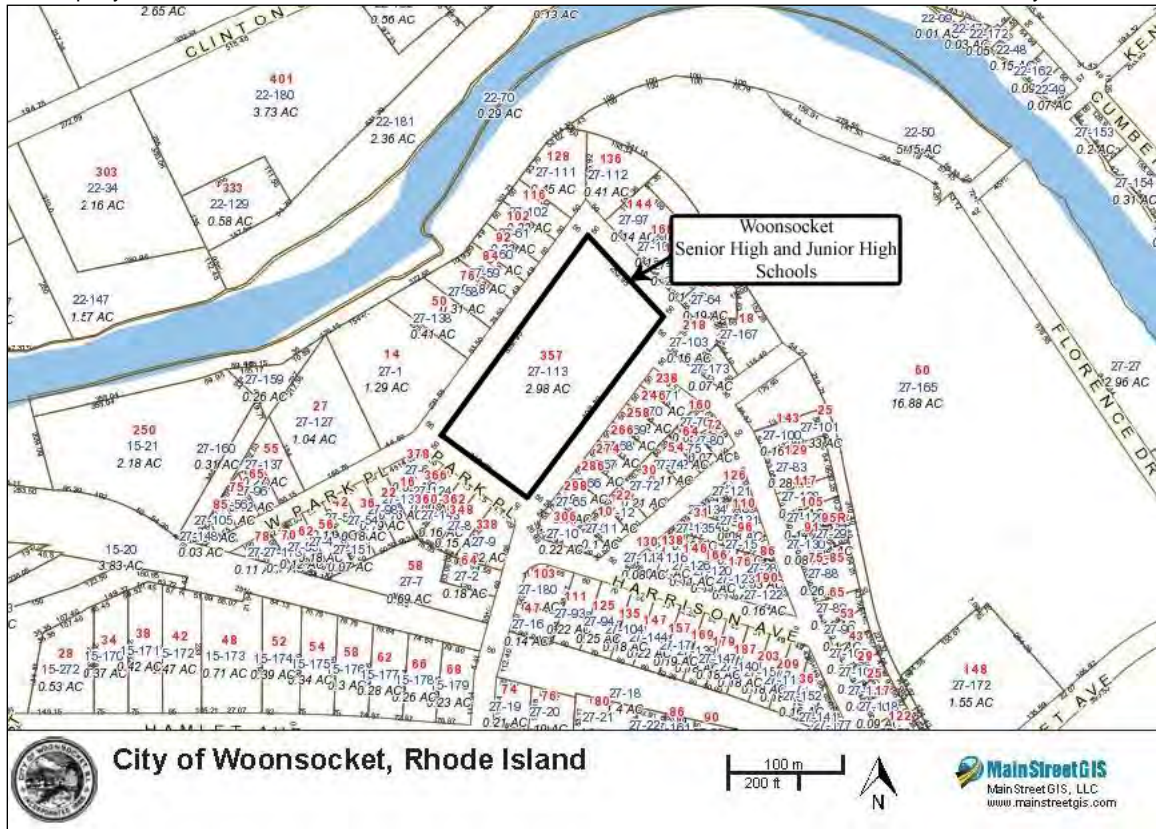
Location of Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools.

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools

Providence Cty, RI

Name of Property

County and State



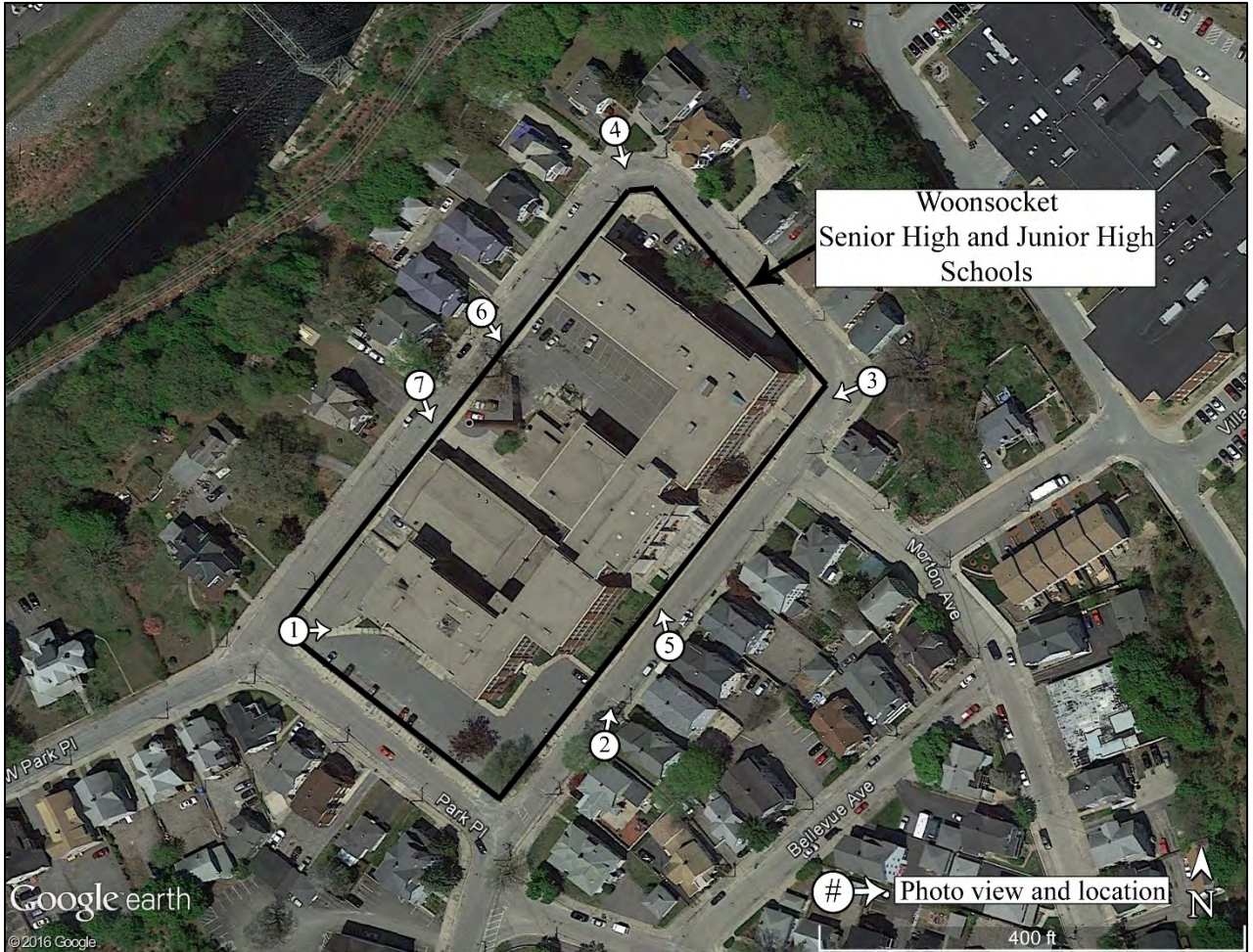
Location of Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools, Woonsocket Assessor's Map.

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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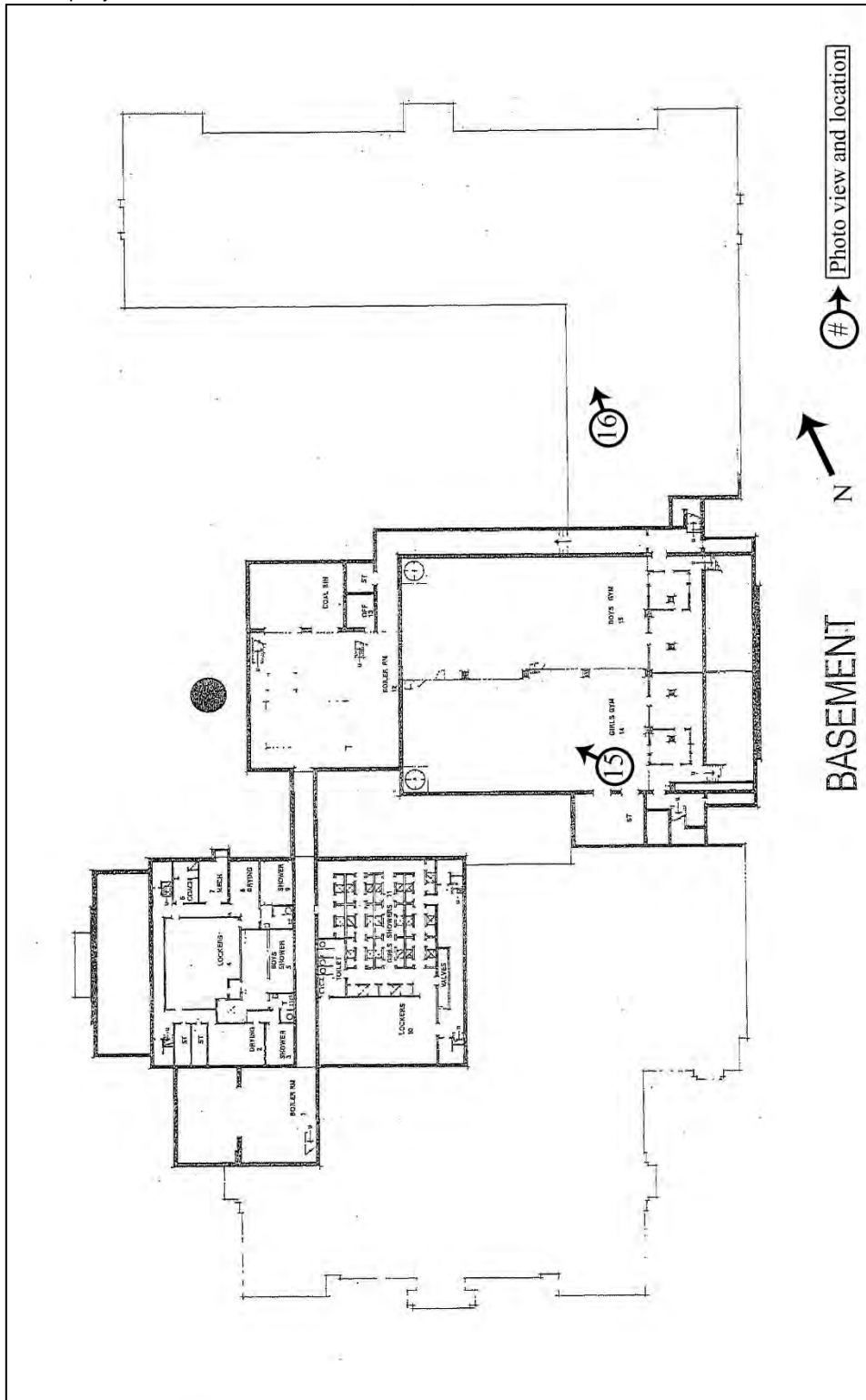
Aerial image of Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools, showing exterior photo views and locations (source: Google Earth).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools

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Name of Property

County and State



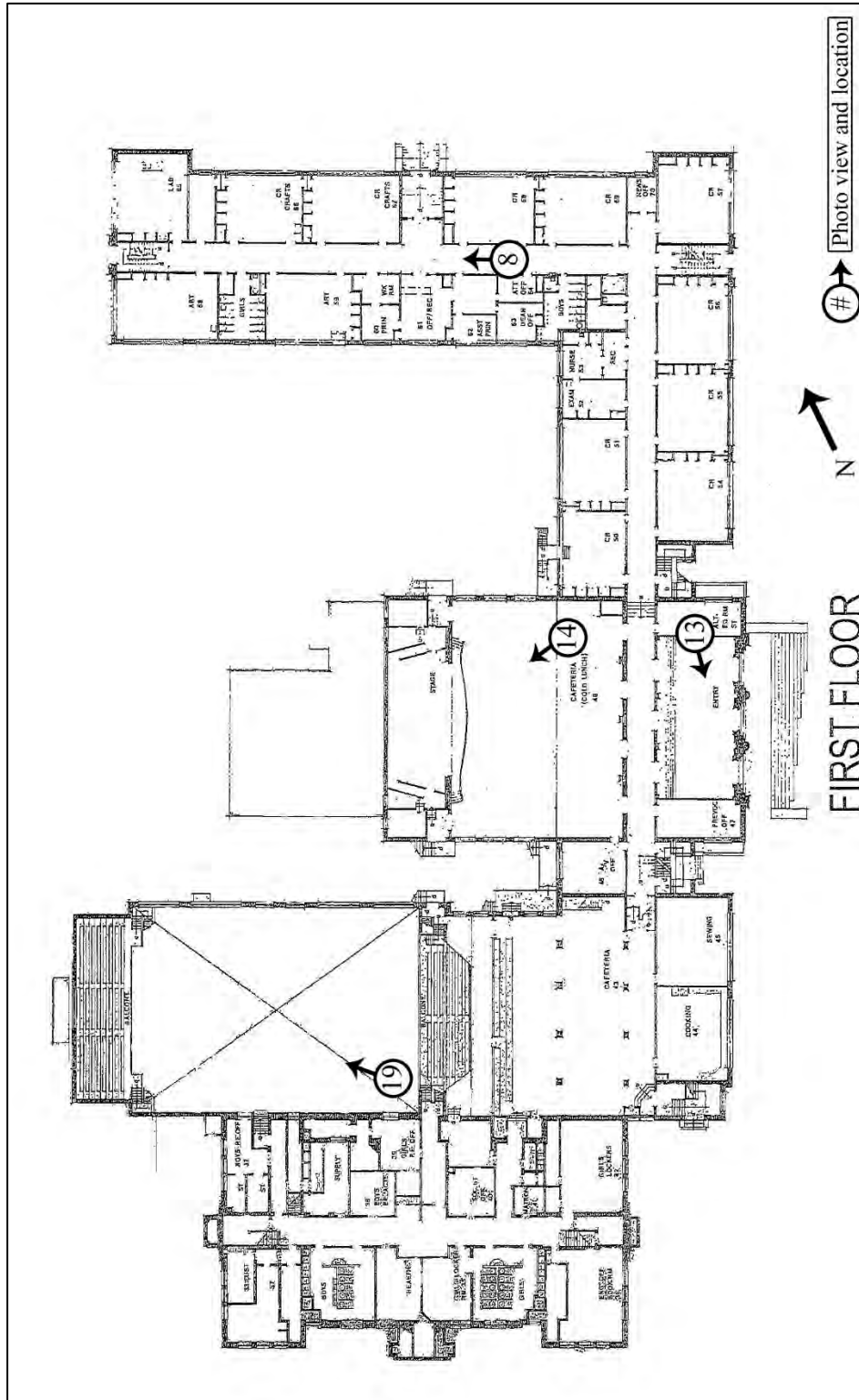
Existing conditions basement plan, showing interior photo views and locations, n.d.(source: City of Woonsocket).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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County and State



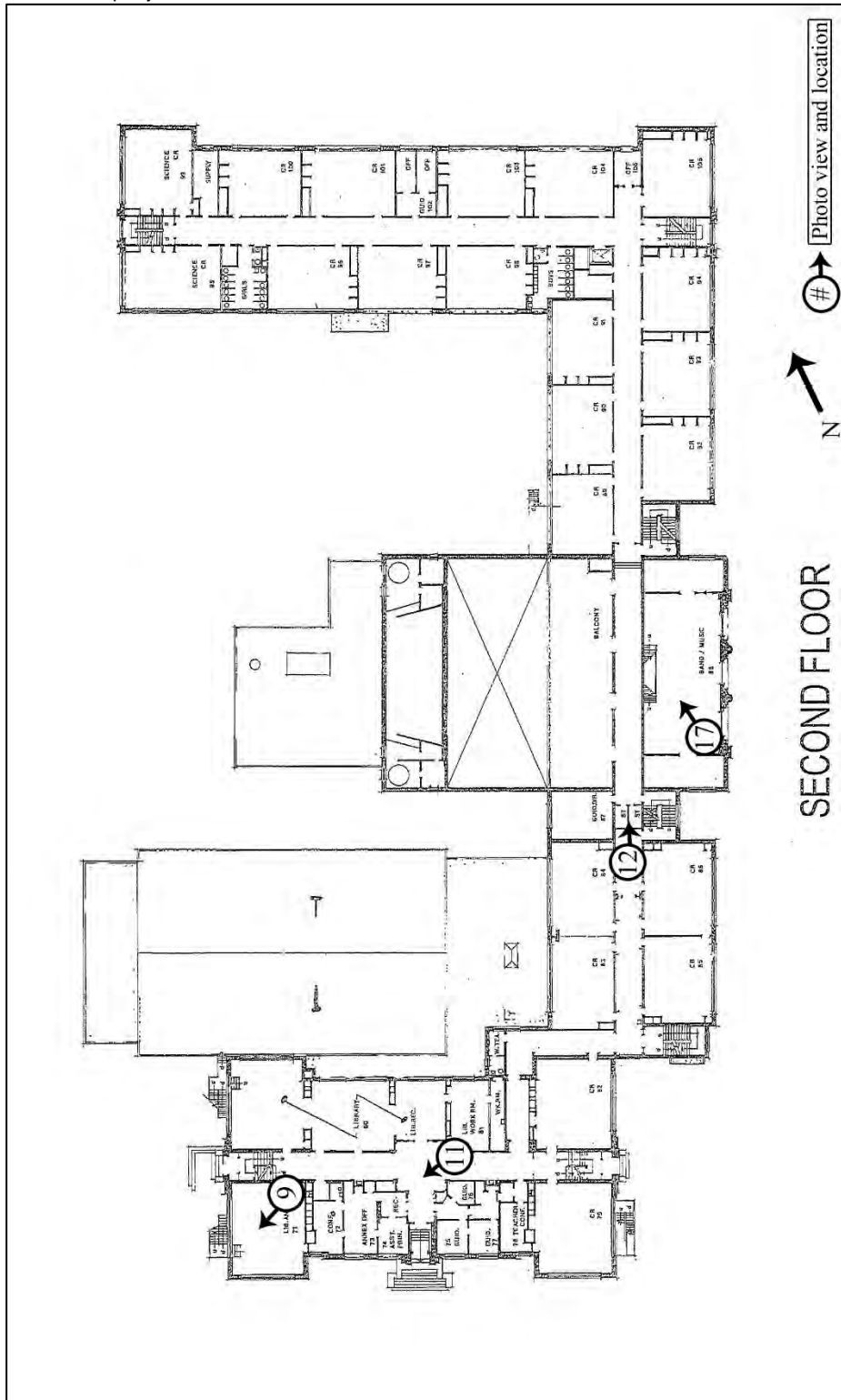
Existing conditions first floor plan, showing interior photo views and locations, n.d.(source: City of Woonsocket).

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County and State



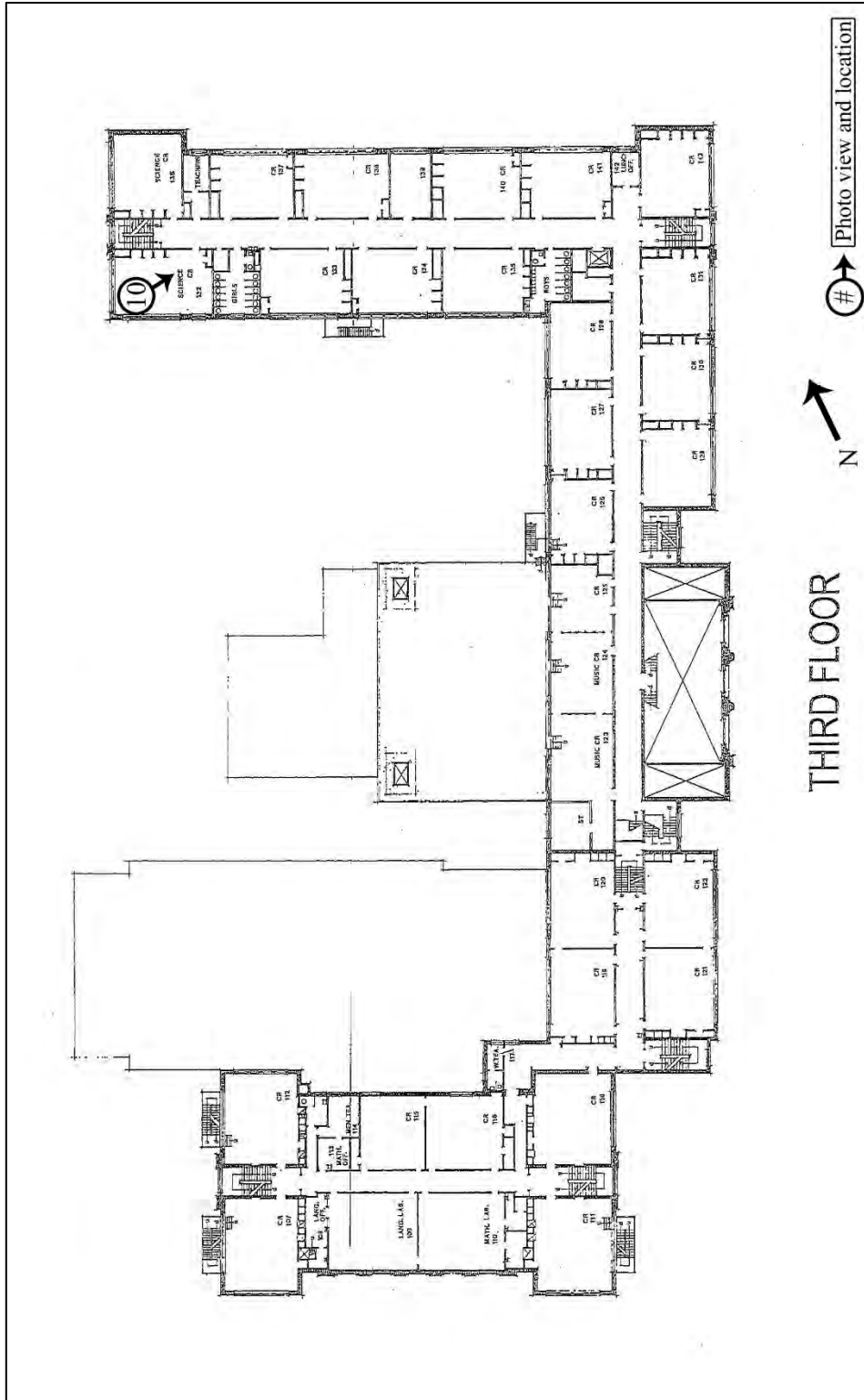
Existing conditions second floor plan, showing interior photo views and locations, n.d. (source: City of Woonsocket).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools

Providence Cty, RI

Name of Property

County and State



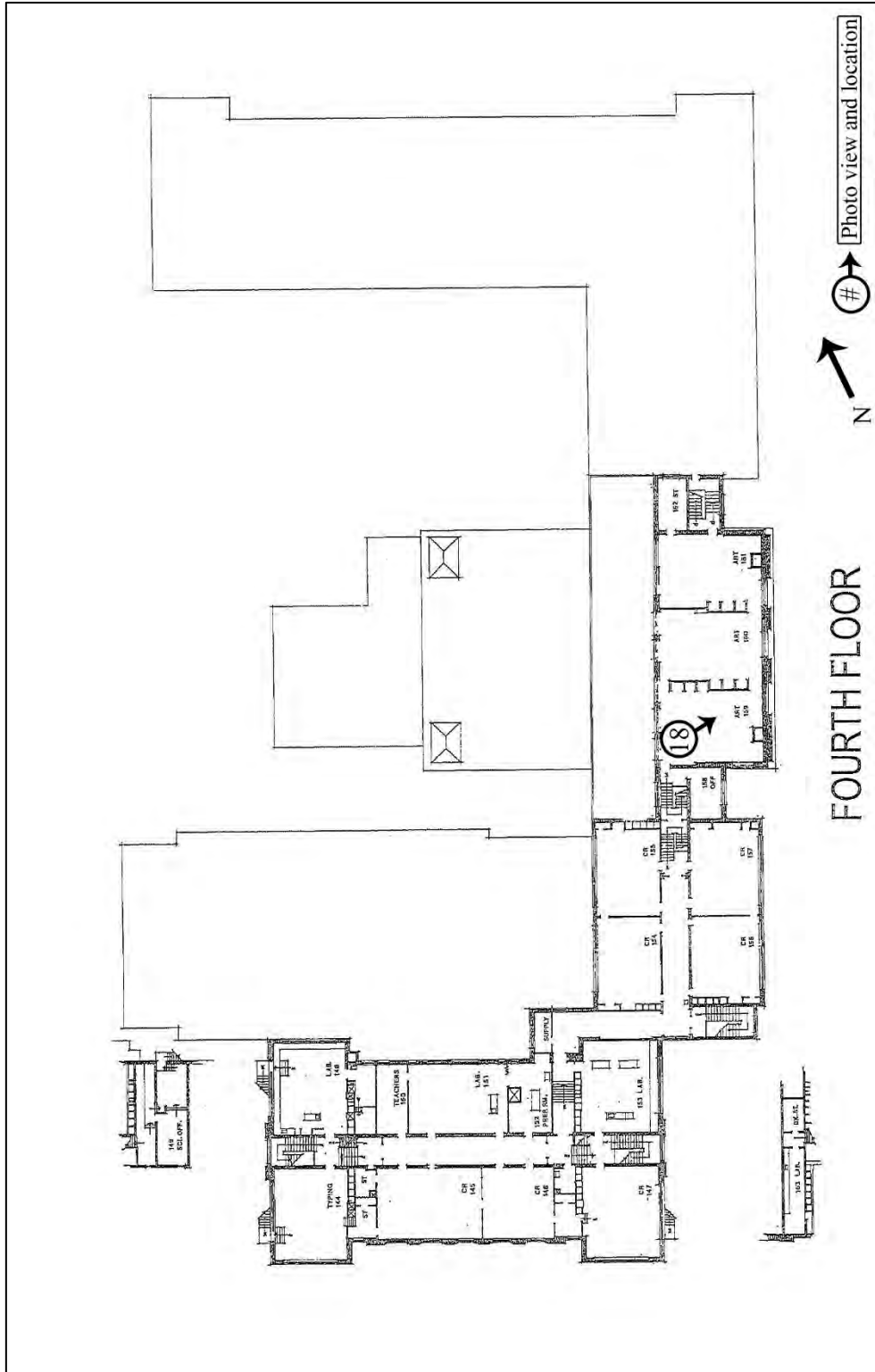
Existing conditions third floor plan, showing interior photo views and locations, n.d. (source: City of Woonsocket).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
Schools

Name of Property

Providence Cty, RI

County and State



Existing conditions fourth floor plan, showing interior photo views and locations, n.d. (source: City of Woonsocket).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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Providence Cty, RI

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County and State



Figure 1. 1950 Sanborn map (source: Sanborn 1950).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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County and State



Figure 2. 1955 Sanborn map color coded with dates of construction (source: Sanborn 1955).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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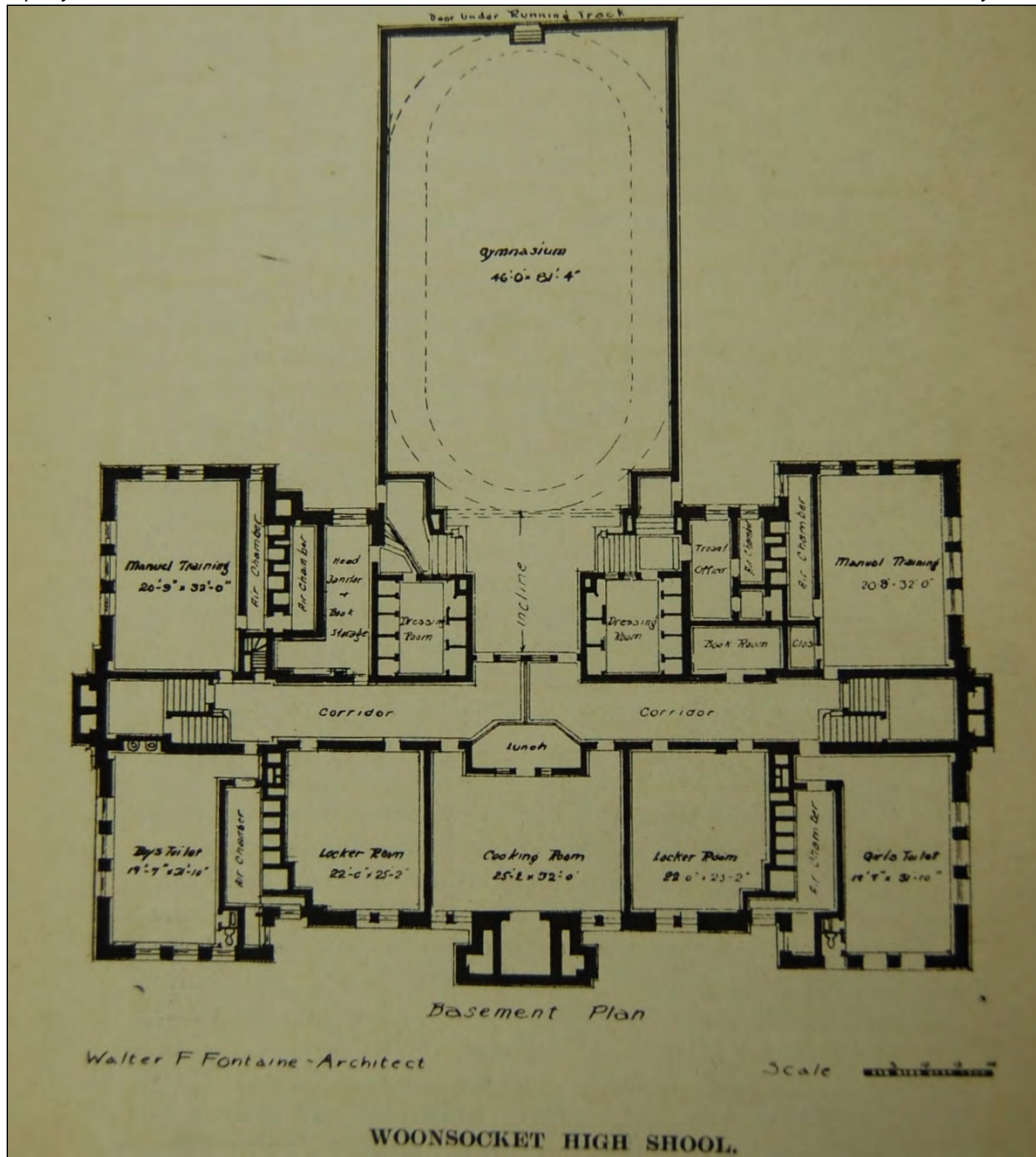


Figure 3. 1915 Senior High School basement floor plan (source: WSCC 1915).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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Name of Property

County and State

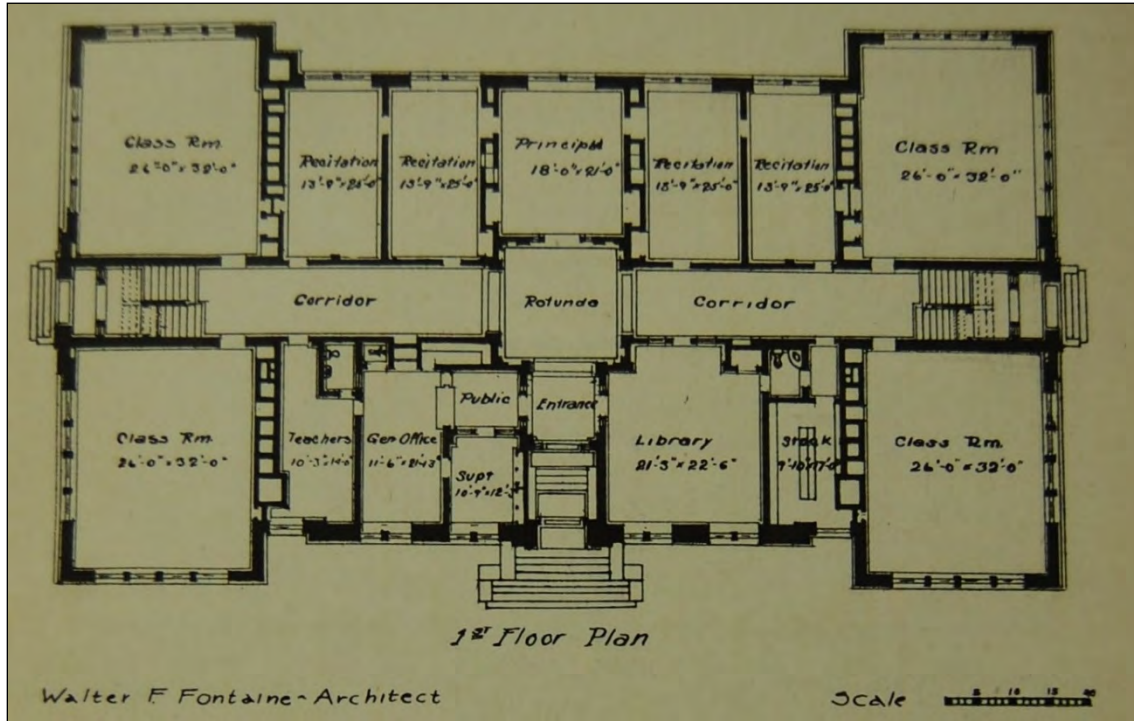


Figure 4. 1915 Senior High School first floor plan (source: WSCC 1915).

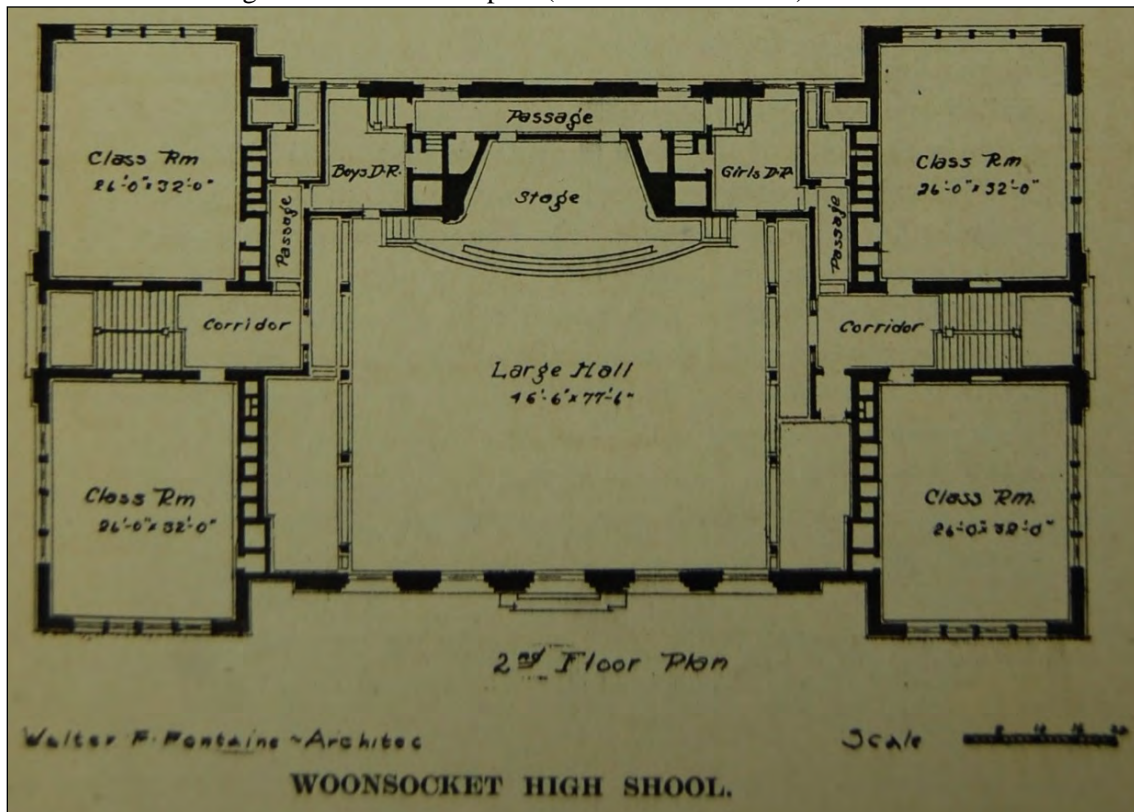


Figure 5. 1915 Senior High School second floor plan (source: WSCC 1915).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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County and State

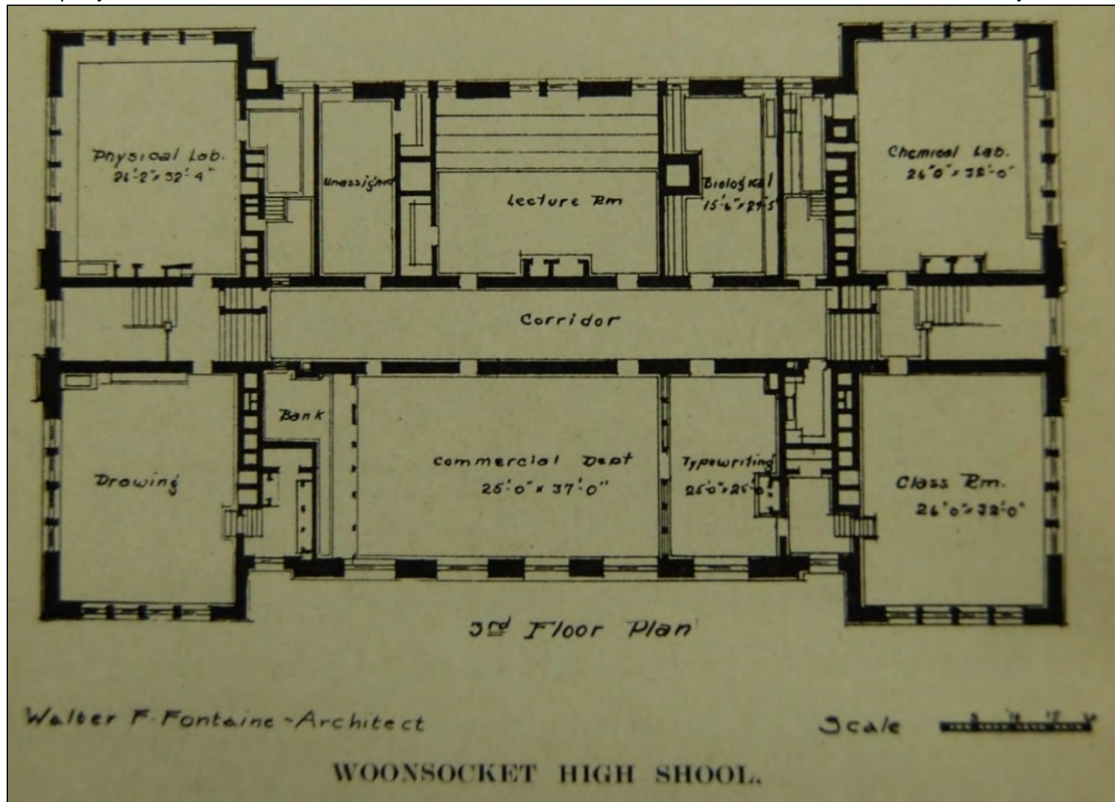


Figure 6. 1915 Senior High School third floor plan (source: WSCC 1915).



Figure 7. 1915 Senior High School, 1915 view (source: WSCC 1915).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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Figure 8. 1915 Senior High School, view of the auditorium (not extant) (source: WSCC 1915).

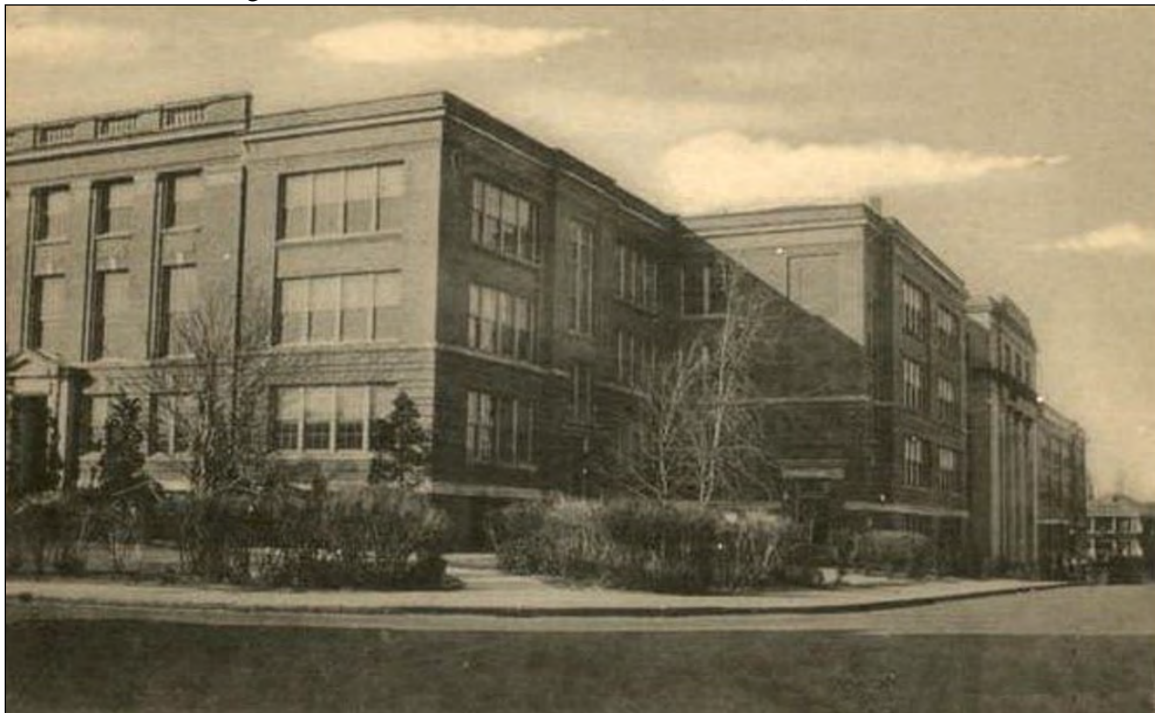


Figure 9. 1915 Senior High School (l) and 1927 Junior High School (r), undated postcard (source: Crowley and Bacon Collection n.d.).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Woonsocket Senior and Junior High Schools

City or Vicinity: Woonsocket

County: Providence Co. State: Rhode Island

Photographer: Quinn R. Stuart (PAL); Jeffrey Emidy (Deputy SHPO – RIHPHC)

Date Photographed: August 16, 2016 and September 8, 2016 (Stuart); August 7, 2012 (Emidy)

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

- 1 of 19. Senior High School, looking east.
- 2 of 19. Senior High School and Junior High School (l-r), looking north.
- 3 of 19. Senior High School and Junior High School (l-r), looking southwest.
- 4 of 19. Junior High School, looking southeast.
- 5 of 19. Junior High School Pavilion, looking northwest.
- 6 of 19. Junior High School Auditorium, looking southeast.
- 7 of 19. Gym Annex, looking southeast.
- 8 of 19. Junior High School Corridor, looking northwest.
- 9 of 19. Library Annex (former classroom) in Senior High School second floor, looking southwest.
- 10 of 19. Science Classroom in Junior High School, looking east.
- 11 of 19. Senior High School Rotunda and Corridor, looking northwest.
- 12 of 19. Stair tower between 1925 Senior High School Addition and Junior High School second floor, looking north.
- 13 of 19. Junior High School Entrance Foyer, looking south.
- 14 of 19. Junior High School Auditorium, looking west.
- 15 of 19. Boys' and Girls' Gym in Junior High School basement, looking northwest.
- 16 of 19. Shop Classroom in Junior High School basement, looking north (Emidy).

Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High
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- 17 of 19. Band Classroom on the second floor of the Junior High School pavilion, looking northwest.
- 18 of 19. Art Classroom on the fourth floor of the Junior High School pavilion, looking northeast.
- 19 of 19. Gym Annex, looking northwest.

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.





WOONSOCKET MIDDLE SCHOOL

WOONSOCKET
MIDDLE SCHOOL







5010



25



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure a consistently safe and secure environment for all students and staff, the following responsibilities are expected of all students:

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Students will be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they are expected to respect the dignity and safety of others through words and actions. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when a student:
- Comes to school prepared, on time and ready to learn.
- Shows respect for themselves and others and for those in authority.
- Refrains from bringing weapons to school that may compromise the safety of others.
- Follows the established rules and is responsible for their actions.







ESSENTIAL QUESTION
What does it mean to be civilized?
What are some characteristics of civilization?

Think about the quote "Civilization is the art of the war" - what does that mean?
All "civilized" talk have "civilized" intentions - (Sartre)

301





HOLDING











TRUST

REVUE

BEHOLD
OUT-OF

PROJECT #2







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: RHODE ISLAND, Providence

Date Received:
9/20/2017

Date of Pending List:
10/26/2017

Date of 16th Day:
11/13/2017

Date of 45th Day:
11/6/2017

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001780

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Appeal

SHPO Request

Waiver

Resubmission

Other

PDIL

Landscape

National

Mobile Resource

TCP

CLG

Text/Data Issue

Photo

Map/Boundary

Period

Less than 50 years

Accept

Return

Reject

11/6/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

The Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools are significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture. The imposing educational complex represents an excellent example of Classical Revival-style school design by prominent local architect Walter F. Fontaine. The construction of the school buildings between 1915 and 1952 marked significant local efforts at providing modern and efficient educational facilities for the community, reflecting the city's growth and expansion as an important industrial (textile) center along the Blackstone River. The buildings served as Woonsocket's premier secondary education facilities throughout most of the 20th century.

Recommendation/
Criteria Accept National Register Criteria A and C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 11/6/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House • 150 Benefit Street • Providence, R.I. 02903-1209

TEL (401) 222-2678

FAX (401) 222-2968

TTY / Relay 711

Website www.preservation.ri.gov

RECEIVED 2280

SEP 20 2017

NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

12 September 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Woonsocket Senior High and Junior High Schools at 357 Park Place in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Notification procedures required by law have been followed. The nomination has been reviewed by the Rhode Island Review Board and approved.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980, as State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Sanderson
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure