

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

10)

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: New Britain Public High School Campus

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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



2. Location

Street & number: 50 Bassett Street; 161 S. Main Street

City or town: New Britain State: CT County: Hartford

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

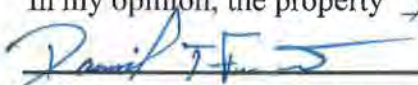
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

	<u>2/3/15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u>X</u> meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
	<u>2/3/15</u>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

for [Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

3/23/15
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

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>2 (murals)</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Renaissance

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Collegiate Gothic

MODERN MOVEMENT/ Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt Shingles; Tar/Gravel

Other: Cast-Stone; Terra Cotta

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 New Britain Public School Campus is located at 50 Bassett Street and 161 S. Main Street, approximately a half mile south of downtown New Britain. The 4.83-acre triangular parcel is bounded by Bassett Street on the west, Main Street on the east and by Whiting Street/Franklin Square on the north. The surrounding land is developed with mostly residential with commercial properties located along Main Street. The site is fully developed and there are no character-defining landscape features.

The campus consists of two buildings but may be better understood as five structures. Building 1 is located on the west side, along Bassett Street, and consists of three attached and interconnected structures: an 1896 Italian Renaissance Public High School at the north and a 1915 Collegiate Gothic Vocational High School at the south. A third structure was then built in 1929 in the Collegiate Gothic style to create a single interconnected and unified high school. Building 2 is located on the east side of the campus, along South Main Street. Linear in form, it consists of a 1923 brick structure with a 1939 Art Moderne addition. Between the two buildings is a paved surface-parking lot.

The campus was transformed into senior affordable housing in the late 1970s. Construction of new school campuses resulted in Building 2 first being vacated in 1961 and then Building 1 in 1971. The cutting edge (at the time) project involved both exterior and interior modifications but noteworthy character-defining materials and features were retained. Overall the campus retains a good degree of integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

Narrative Description

SETTING

The New Britain Public High School campus is located a half mile south of downtown along Main Street, a north-south arterial with one lane of traffic in each direction that connects New Britain to Berlin and communities south in a predominately residential neighborhood.

SITE

The site is 4.83 acres, triangular in shape with the apex at the north. The site is flat but slopes down slightly from north to south and more so from west to east. The site has two buildings, each a conglomeration of multiple structures. Building 1 is located along Bassett Street. It consists of three interconnected structures built in 1896, 1915 and 1929. In form, Building 1 is linear and rectilinear in shape but with an irregular rear (east) elevation. It is approximately 460 feet on the north-south axis with a footprint of roughly 51,380 square-feet (1.18 acres). Building 2 consists of two interconnected structures built in 1923 and 1939. In form, Building 2 is approximately 393 feet on the north-south axis and a footprint of roughly 30,000 square-feet (0.7 acres). The space between the two buildings is roughly 80,000 square-feet (1.8 acres). It is triangular in shape. This space is mostly used for surface-parking, but includes a hardscaped plaza on the west side adjacent to Building 1.

BUILDING 1

As noted, Building 1 consists of three structures along Bassett Street. The first structure is the 1896 Italian Renaissance Public High School, located on the north. In chronological order, the second structure is the 1915 Collegiate Gothic Vocational High School. This is located at the south end of Bassett Street. In 1929, a third structure, also of the Collegiate Gothic style, was built that connected these two buildings, consolidating the three structures into a single high school unit and including the high school's new front door.¹

Exterior

North Elevation: The north façade of Building 1 is the north elevation of the original 1896 high school (see Photograph 1). Given the prominent siting at the foot of Franklin Square, this façade may be considered a primary facade. The façade is approximately 125 feet across and 48 feet tall. Architectural materials include a rusticated cast-stone water table, yellow-tan-brick walls with natural gray mortar, cast-stone decoration, and a classically detailed wood cornice with dentils and modillions. Windows, originally wood, have generally been replaced with modern aluminum, although wood frames and spandrels remain. The façade is organized vertically into three primary bays, the outside bays being identical with three single windows across each floor. The center section is more elaborate in design and is defined by five two-

¹ This third structure originally spanned the width of the 1896 structure and include classrooms, and auditorium; when the building was adapted for senior housing, the auditorium portion was demolished.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

story arched windows beginning at the second floor. These windows are complex with a painted wood spandrel panel. These windows are then framed by brick pilasters with a cast-

stone base that sits on the belt course, rising to a cast-stone capital trimmed with three rosettes that supports a complex brick arch over the window opening. At the ground floor center is the primary entry (see Photograph 2) to the original High School, defined by a classically decorated cast-stone surround that reads at the top: "PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL". Originally, this arched entry was recessed and opened to a flight of stairs to a raised first floor. In 1978, the entry was enclosed with the current modern aluminum framed doors. Adjacent to the opening is an incised stone that reads "1896". Horizontally, the section is well composed with a rusticated water table at the base, complemented by a matching stone belt course between the first and second floor, and balanced by a slightly overhanging eave supported by a complex cornice with

dentils and brackets. Flanking the center section are identical wings. These continue the horizontal articulation of the center section and feature a grouping of three windows on each floor. Windows again were originally one-over-one, double-hung wood sash in wood-frame; today, these are modern aluminum sashes set in the original wood frames.

West Elevation: The west elevation along Bassett Street is an amalgamation of the three interconnected structures. This amalgamation included the side elevation of the 1896 Public High School, the primary elevation of the 1929 Public High School, and the primary front elevation of the 1915 Vocational High School.

Beginning at the north with the 1896 structure (see photograph 3), that side façade is roughly 120 feet across and 48 feet tall. Materials and basic organization are similar to the north elevation, but clearly the façade is secondary. It is organized in a largely utilitarian fashion with substantially less decoration than the north façade, but maintaining the same horizontal articulation. Of note, at the center north (fifth bay from the north) is a one-bay, one-story hipped roof structure that extends from the building face; this structure originally served as an entry, but in 1978, the doors were replaced with windows. Above this one-time entry, where on the interior is a full height stair, are paired double-height windows.

Moving southward, the second structure is the 1929 building, which, upon completion, became the school's new primary entrance. This structure, which is approximately 160 feet across, attaches to the south elevation of the 1896 structure and at the point of attachment projects west toward the street approximately 20 feet. Materials and design are a stark contrast to the 1896 structure; the 1929 structure is dark-tan-brick with cast-stone decoration in the Collegiate Gothic style. The most prominent element is the entry (see photograph 4). It is approximately 40 feet across, projects slightly from the building face, and is divided into three bays. The entry is reached via a five step stairway that spans the entry and leads to three Tudor arched paired doors, one in each bay. All three bays have extensive and elaborate cast-stone decoration. The outer two doorways are surmounted by a cast-stone panel with ivy decoration; this decoration is symbolic of tenacity of purpose and a holding to ideals. The center doorway projects from the other two doorways and is faced entirely with cast-stone. Above the center bay there is a two-story cast-stone bay window projecting yet further. To balance the bay window, the flanking bays have a Tudor arched window with cast-stone surround at the second floor and a similar sized squared-window with cast-stone surround at the third floor. The entire entryway is highly decorated with symbolic stone ornamentation that includes shields, oak leaves,

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

grotesques, books, bar of music, world, football player, jester, owl, bees with hive, lion, pelican, and four carved figures symbolic of the four rivers of paradise (Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel and Euphrates).

At first glance, it appears that the 1929 structure is symmetrically organized; in large part, this is accomplished first by flanking the entry with mirror elements, each 40 feet and three bays across. Each bay here features paired windows on each floor. These two wings continue the cast-stone decoration but secondary to the main entry. To the north of this ensemble, the structure is approximately 80 feet across but here only two stories above the daylight basement. It is divided into three similar bays with two sets of paired windows in each bay. South of the ensemble is actually the north portion of the 1915 façade. To a large degree, decoration of the bays north and south wings is used to create a somewhat unified appearance.

At the far south is the west façade of the 1915 building. This structure is two stories above a daylight basement and roughly 180 feet in length. When viewed independently of the 1929 structure, the façade here is symmetrically organized with seven bays, each bay being roughly 25 feet across with a group of four windows on each floor. However, the brick of the 1929 building matches that of the 1915 as does the style, so the two structures read as a single entity (see photograph 6). At the center of the 1915 structure is the original entry to the Vocational High School (see photograph 5). This featured a low rise open stair to a Tudor arched opening framed in cast-stone. In 1978, the doorway was adapted to windows. At the second floor is a group of three windows. At the parapet there is a cast-stone panel that reads "VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL". Cast-stone decoration and quoins are used to frame each element.

South Elevation: The south elevation of Building 1 consists of three separate elements (see photograph 7): The most pronounced is the south elevation of the 1915 structure. Here, materials are similar to the west elevation with dark-tan-brick with natural gray mortar. The roofline, defined by crenelated cast-stone coping, continues that of the west elevation. The water table at the head of the daylight basement windows and a belt course at the head of the second story windows on the west also wrap around to the south. Because the ground slopes downward from west to east on the south, the daylight basement windows are half size on the west and full size on the east. The elevation is approximately 75 feet across, defined into three bays, approximately equal in size, with the central bay slightly projecting. This center bay features a concrete center stairs that parallel the building face and turn 90 degrees inward to a recessed pair of doors. This recess is created by a slightly projecting one-story brick enframement with cast-stone top. Over the doorway is a group of three oversized windows with oversized transom. Originally, the center bay was flanked by blank brick walls in a decorative geometric patterns; at some point, a single window was inserted in the east bay at the first and second floors. Windows are fixed and double-hung and have been replaced with metal sash.

The 1915 structure is "T"-shaped with the top of the "T" facing west onto Bassett Street. The length of the "T" on the south side forms a second portion of the south elevation. The base of the "T" extends outward and the south face of that base then forms the third element of the south elevation. These elements are all secondary features with red-brick. Windows were historically one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash in wood frame; these have been replaced the modern metal sash in the original frames. These windows are grouped and organized symmetrically.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

Rear Elevations: Overlooking the parking lot between the two buildings, the rear is again an amalgamation (from south to north) of the 1915, 1929 and 1896 structures. This amalgamation includes the multitude of elevations that include the rear portion of the "T"-shaped 1915 structure, the modern adaptation of the 1929 connector structure, and the south and east elevations of the 1896 building.

The rear portions of the 1915 building are consistent with red-brick in natural-gray mortar, a red-brick belt course at the basement window head, a cast-stone or brick belt course at the second floor window head, a denticulated cornice with painted sheet metal coping at the top. Windows are single or grouped, consistent within each bay but inconsistent from bay to bay. Windows are metal sash with cast-stone sill. At the center of the east elevation of the 1915 building is a central projecting one story entryway with cast-stone elements.

As built, the east side of the 1929 connector building extended eastward and housed an auditorium plus locker rooms and classrooms. In the 1970s, when the building was adapted for senior housing, these spaces were demolished and the footprint retained as a hardscaped courtyard. In its place, the current east façade is modern red-brick stepped back a bay at the basement to the first floor and at the third floor to roof. To the north is an ADA-accessible elevator tower with ramp to the first floor, clad in metal siding. To the south is a matching wall also clad in metal siding. The windows are modern with a band at the basement, first and third floors, and large punched openings at the second and fourth (see photograph 8)

Finally, at the far north, is the east elevation of the original 1896 structure (see photograph 10). This elevation is more or less identical to the west elevation of this structure. The primary difference is that the ground slopes downward from west to east so whereas the center west entry is more or less at grade, the matching entry on the east requires a run of stairs.

Visible from the center parking lot, too, is the south elevation of the 1896 building (see photograph 9). This is a rear elevation and includes infill sections where the original 1896 gymnasium/auditorium existed (torn down when the 1929 structure was built). This wall consists of either tan or red-brick with cast-stone sills and painted sheet metal cornice. Windows are one-over-one with a transom.

Interior

The interior spaces of Building 1 have been modified over time as additions were built and functional requirements changed. Today, the spaces are a reflection of the site's evolution from a high school to a larger educational complex and finally to senior housing.

The original 1896 High School is three full stories with a daylight basement. In form, each floor was and is identical. As designed, each floor had a corridor organization that was a closed "U" with the base oriented to the north (see photographs 11, 12, 13, 15). The east-west corridors terminated at the south at the gymnasium on the ground floor and auditorium at floors one through three. Corridors were finished with painted plaster walls and ceiling, except at the basement which was more utilitarian and included exposed brick walls. Trim included extensive wood wainscoting, door and window casings, and on the first floor, decorative ceiling beams. Classrooms varied in size with specific school functions with each floor typically having four larger classrooms at each corner, supplemented by smaller spaces for recitation and school

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

services. Vertical circulation was achieved solely by two enclosed stairwells at the east and west ends of the base east-west corridor (see photograph 14). In 1929, with the construction of the connector, the gymnasium/auditorium was demolished and the "U" shaped corridors squared with a southern east-west corridor. At this same time, the stairwells were modernized and a new stairwell constructed at the southwest providing both vertical circulation and access to the 1929 Connector and 1915 addition. Notably, the floor levels of the 1929 building did not align with that of the 1896 structure. In the 1978 adaptation to senior housing, generally the corridors and stairwells were retained intact while the spaces off the corridors largely gutted. New and original doors are distinguished by the presence or absence of wood casing. Today, the corridors remain with painted plaster walls and ceiling, and extensive wood wainscot and window and door casing. Flooring is typically wall-to-wall carpet. The stairwells are intact to 1929 with painted plaster walls and ceiling, metal stairs with metal balustrade and linoleum floors. Apartments are painted gypsum board floors and ceiling with wall-to-wall carpet and VCT flooring.

The design function of the 1929 Connector was to connect the 1896 building with the 1915 addition, establishing a new front door to the now unified high school, and providing classroom space and a new auditorium. As noted, the classrooms and auditorium on the east were demolished in 1978, establishing a new east wall of the building. Today, as then, the interior of this structure is organized along a primary single north-south corridor. At the center, where the main entry to the school now was, a set of three west-facing entry doors led to a vestibule with doors on the interior side that matched the exterior side in location. These doors then led to a decorative lobby with superior finishes (see photograph 17 and 18). These finishes included Arts & Crafts style tile floor panels surrounded by checkerboard terrazzo and by stenciled decorative ceiling beams. Along the east wall, this space originally had openings to an auditorium adjacent east. The wall now features a horizontal row of windows providing light and ventilation.

The floors of the 1929 structure are all similar with a single, primary north-south corridor and today the treatment is largely consistent (see photographs 19 and 20). Of note, the building featured a dramatic second floor library (see photograph 21) which is located over the first floor lobby. This space features elaborate wood decoration that includes beamed ceilings, wood paneling and bookcases, and multi-light glass partitions. It also includes the two WPA-era murals (see photograph 22). In the 1978 renovation, this space was adapted with slight modification to a community room.

On all floors, the north-south corridor was originally double-loaded and led to classrooms. Today, with demolition of the classrooms and auditorium on the east, the corridor is now only single loaded, though the width is approximately the original width. Walls and ceilings are painted gypsum board and flooring is wall-to-wall carpet (see photographs 19 and 20). The spaces off the corridor to the east were gutted and reconfigured for apartments with modern finishes of painted gypsum board walls and ceiling, and wall-to-wall carpet with VCT.

Vertical circulation in the 1929 structure was achieved a stairwell at the north accessing both the 1929 and 1896 structures, and a stairwell at the southeast near the nexus with the 1915 structure (see photograph 38) Additionally, at the north end of the east wall, an ADA-accessible elevator was installed in 1978 providing access to the upper and ground floors.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

As to the 1915 structure, each of the floors was and is organized in a "T" configuration with the top of the "T" running north-south and the center leg extending eastward. This corridor was double loaded and provided access to classrooms of generally uniform size. As designed, stairwells were located at the ends of each corridor. When the 1929 connector was constructed, the north stairwell was eliminated. Similar to the Connector, the size and organization of the corridors have been retained but the materials have been replaced with modern. Off the corridor, the space has been gutted and adapted to housing units.

Major Alterations

Throughout its history, Building 1 was modified over time to meet the school's educational mission. Additionally, after Building 1 was closed in 1971, it suffered from neglect, vandalism and anticipated demolition. At the time of the 1978 adaptive reuse, it was in poor condition.

That said, major modifications of Building 1 are generally limited to two events: Construction of the 1929 structure and the 1978 adaptive reuse.

Construction of the 1929 addition resulted in the demolition of the auditorium at the south elevation of the original 1896 building. The façade was then rebuilt and the spaces adapted into classrooms. Construction of the addition also resulted in the demolition and replacement of existing stairs.

Exterior changes resulting from the 1978 adaptive reuse include replacement of the windows, replacement of many of the exterior doors, enclosing the 1896 and 1915 west elevation (Bassett Street) entries, and demolition of the 1929 auditorium and classrooms on the east. Interior changes generally focused on adapting the classroom spaces off the corridor into residential units and improving ADA access with the addition of an elevator.

BUILDING 2

Building 2 is located on the east side of the campus, along Main Street. Linear in form, it consists of a 1923 three-story tapestry brick structure with a 3-story 1939 Art Moderne addition. The 1923 structure was built as a trade school, as was the 1939 addition, though it operated as an integral part of the larger public high school campus in conjunction with Building 1.

Exterior

East Elevation: The east elevation is the primary façade Building 2, for both the 1923 building and the 1939 addition. The 1923 portion measures 190 feet north and south and is three stories and approximately 34 feet tall (see photograph 25 and 26). It was not designed in a particular style but is attractive in its simplicity. The façade is clad in tapestry red-brick with natural mortar in the Flemish bond. The three story building has a poured concrete on grade foundation, and is divided into 15 bays. The middle nine bays have three windows per floor, except for the center, which has two windows each. At the center is the original first floor projecting entry. The outer six bays of the building are in a 1-2-1 window pattern. The entry retains its original size, arched shape and decorative cast-stone and brick features that extend to the roofline. Engraved into the cast-stone surround at the top reads, "E. C. Goodwin School". The entry has been sensitively enclosed with two double-hung windows and fixed divided light transoms. All

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

windows are double-hung or fixed and have been replaced with metal frames and a metal panel above most windows. A cast-stone band is above the first level windows and at the roof line. The roof is flat with a slight parapet and metal coping.

The 1939 addition to Building 2 was constructed at the south. It consists of two parts: The first is 133 feet across, three stories in height and matches the roof line of the 1923 structure (see photograph 28) At the far south is the gymnasium building which projects forward, at 70 feet across and two stories in height. The addition was designed in the Art Moderne style with a

poured concrete on grade foundation, clad in red-brick with natural mortar similar to the 1923 building. The façade is 21 bays across with all double-hung, metal framed windows in metal panels. The construction of the 1939 addition established a new front door to the building, a prominently projecting three-story entry at the center of the unified structure (photograph 27). The entry has a tall cast-stone, two-story surround with double-divided light doors, metal panel transom and canopy. Flanking the cast-stone surround are brick pilasters with round metal base relief panels representative of the school. To the north of the entry are the "Research", "Mechanics" and a blank seal. To the south of the entry are the "Security", "Adventure" and the Connecticut state seal. A secondary entry is located to the south, abutting the gymnasium's north elevation. The one-story projecting entry is cast-stone and has been enclosed with two double-hung windows and metal panel transom. The original shape, size and cast-stone surround have been retained. The roof of the 1939 addition is flat with a slight parapet and cast-stone cornice.

South Elevation: The south elevation of Building 2 is that of the 1939 addition, specifically the gymnasium. It is 105 feet across, two stories in height (see photograph 29). The red-brick and natural mortar continues onto this two-story elevation. There are six bays with a center entry and canopy. The entry has a metal service door. The windows are double-hung with the same metal panel window system as the east façade. Decorative brick pilasters with cast-stone caps divide the bays. The southeast corner has a blank brick wall with a pair of windows at the ground level.

West Elevation: The west elevation of Building 2 is the rear, overlooking the parking lot at the center, and includes the rear elevation of the addition and the original buildings. The rear of the 1939 gymnasium has the same red-brick configuration as the south elevation and is divided into four bays of double-hung, metal-framed windows (photograph 30). The rear elevation of the 1939 main block is also clad in similar red-brick configuration and is divided into fourteen bays of double-hung and fixed metal framed windows with a metal panel system. There is a rear entry to the south that has a metal and glass service door. The first floor of the 1939 addition projects out toward the parking lot (see photograph 31).

The rear elevation of the 1923 building (see photograph 32) has similar red-brick and natural mortar configuration as the east and north facades. There are 15 bays of double-hung and fixed metal framed windows with a metal panel system above most windows. The configuration is similar to that of the primary façade. A cast-stone band is above the first level windows and at the roof line. There is a one story red-brick Boiler House projecting from where the Technical High School and addition abut. All but two of the nine windows have been bricked in and the chimney remains.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

North Elevation: The north elevation of Building 2 is of the 1923 building. It runs 69 feet across and is three stories in height. The elevation is clad in the same red-brick and natural mortar as the primary façade and is divided into three bays. The center bay projects slightly and has an entry with a cast-stone surround. The door is glass with a side light that both have a lower metal panel and metal transom. There is a band of cast-stone above the first floor windows and at the roofline.

Interior

As originally built, the three floors of both the 1923 and 1939 structures were similar with flexible classroom space located off a single north-south double-loaded corridor. The length of the corridor was determined in part by the classrooms. At the far south was the gymnasium, which was a two-story volume. Vertical circulation was achieved by a stair at the center west and at the north and southwest. Today, the interior is still organized around a single north-south corridor, but generally the interior has been modified to accommodate housing units (photographs 33-37). This includes the one-time gymnasium, which, today, includes an atrium to convey the historic space (photograph 36). Finishes are largely utilitarian residential with painted gypsum board walls and ceiling with wall-to-wall carpet. The stairwells are largely original with metal treads and rails (photograph 38).

Major Alterations

As built, Building 2 was focused primarily on vocational and technical education. It featured a combination of class rooms and open work spaces. These spaces were modified as the school's mission shifted between technical and general education, between varying skill sets, and finally between spaces for skills development target to men and those target to women. After Building 2 closed in 1961, it also suffered from neglect, vandalism and anticipated demolition. Finally, as with Building 1, Building 2 was adapted for senior housing in the 1970s. Those modifications include replacement of the windows and metal panels, replacement of many of the exterior doors and enclosing the 1923 east elevation (Main Street) entry. Interior changes focus on adapting classroom and workshop space into residential units and the installation of a central elevator.

Integrity

As discussed below in Section 8, the Public High School Campus is locally significant under Criterion A in the Area of Education. That importance is for its association with and contribution to the New Britain's educational history and evolution. It is also locally significance under Criterion C for Architecture as a building type, illustrating the evolution of public school design. The historic values are largely embedded in the exterior, particularly in the massing, scale, exterior design and materials. The exterior of the buildings today have a significant degree of integrity with alterations limited to new but compatible doors and windows, and the compatible replacement of metal panels on Building 2 (Trade School). The exception is the east (rear) elevation of the 1929 Connector to the original High School (Building 1) where the auditorium was demolished and then completed with new, modern material and an ADA accessible entry from the parking lot. Here, the outline of the auditorium building is evident in the east courtyard. All of the alterations were part of the innovative historic preservation adaptive reuse completed in 1978.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

On the interior, the buildings have several noteworthy character defining elements and spaces. On the western elevation of Building 1, noteworthy features include the retention of the original floor plan and original wood trim of the 1896 structure (doors, door surrounds, wainscot, brackets, etc.) throughout. Other noteworthy elements include the west entry, vestibule and lobby, second-floor library with WPA murals and retention of the corridor configuration on all three floors. Similarly, on Building 2, the primary entry and vestibule has a high degree of integrity, and the two-story volume of the gymnasium has been retained. In both buildings, stairwells and stairs have been retained. Secondary areas in both buildings have been adapted for senior housing.

The resource retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical and architectural significance for listing on the National Register.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

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 N/A

(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

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1896-1961

Significant Dates

1896, 1915, 1923,

1929, 1939

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Brocklesby, William C.;

Crabtree, Walter P.;

Unkelbach, Max J.;

Holmes, Warren S.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

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 Public High School Campus is locally significant and eligible for listing on the National Register within the context of New Britain (Hartford County) under Criterion A: Education. The resource is an amalgamation of five structures built over five decades to advance secondary education in the community. From 1896 to 1961, it served as the sole location for such education in New Britain. Relatedly, the architecture of place conveys the place of education within the community, and the town's application of changing concepts and theories of secondary education.

The campus is also locally significance and eligible for listing on the National Register within the context of New Britain (Hartford County) under Criterion C: Architecture. Spanning four decades, the campus is an outstanding illustration of building type. As the population grew and the necessary funds were gathered, the campus grew, and its design reflected evolving concepts of public school design.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1896 to 1961, the period during which the campus served as the City's sole center for secondary education.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

Criterion A: EDUCATION

The Public High School Campus is locally significant and eligible for listing on the National Register within the context of New Britain (Hartford County) under Criterion A: Education. The resource is an amalgamation of five structures built over five decades to advance secondary education in the community. From 1896 to 1961, it served as the sole location for secondary education in New Britain. At the same time, the evolution of the site and the construction of the five buildings illustrate the changing manner in which the community addressed secondary education.

The first building is the 1896 Public High School prominently sited at the base of Franklin Square. Italian Renaissance in design, it was at the time of construction the first high school in New Britain built specifically for that function, and in fact was one of the first in the state. It was a building in which the community took considerable pride, "The present High School building is one of the finest in New England."²

² New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, "Annual Report of the School Committee, New Britain

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

The intent of this secondary education was largely, but not exclusively intended for college preparation, with the curriculum largely organized in support of the entrance requirements of New England colleges. A secondary function of the school was to create the mental discipline necessary for success in commerce, industry, or on the farm.³ Christopher Collier summarized the concept well in his book in describing the turn of the twentieth century high school as:

“a tax-supported, tuition free school, open equally to boys and girls, which no entrance requirements other than certified completion of eight years of elementary schooling; it would offer a comprehensive curriculum designed to prepare graduates for college or entrance into the workforce, and give adolescents with no decided life goal a general education that would serve as a base for further formal education . . . it would also serve as a crucible of democracy where . . . youngsters could learn the responsibilities of citizenship through study and practice.”⁴

A growing concern in the early-twentieth century was that students were not staying in school.

“The true test of efficiency in a public education system lay in the ability of the schools to enroll and retain both middle- and working-class children . . . High Schools should provide programs appropriate for children of working class families because the public school is the one agency capable of melding the increasingly diversified population of the state and nation.”⁵

In real terms, the shift in attitudes went from the concept of the right of equal opportunity at secondary level being access to a fixed curriculum to the school being obligated to offer programs equally valuable to students regardless of post-high school plans.⁶ An underlying theme was the ever growing importance of “Americanizing” students of foreign-born families.

This desire to keep students in school was a driving force in the construction of the second building on the campus, the 1915 Vocational High School. Detailed in the *New Britain Herald*, 60 to 70 percent of the children in the state did not go to school beyond the sixth grade. A vocational school “is only in keeping with the strides that should be taken in this age of progress: ‘give the boys and girls a chance. . . many boys and girls remove themselves from school life after graduating from Grammar school because there is nothing in a higher academic training that appeals to them. It is for these future citizens that the Vocational School will be constructed.”⁷ Intended to operate as a single entity, with completion of the Vocational School, the New Britain Public High School then offered courses in General, College Classical, Normal, College Technical, Household Arts and Commercial. With completion of the Vocational High School, the 1896 Public High School building was now called the Academic Building.

Connecticut, 1896-97”, *The High School Building*, (New Britain, CT: Press of Adkins Printing Co., 1897), 11.

³ Christopher Collier, *Connecticut's Public Schools: A History, 1650-2000*, (Orange, CT: Clearwater Press, 2009), 294.

⁴ *Ibid*, 297-299.

⁵ *Ibid*, 297-298.

⁶ *Ibid*, 298.

⁷ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, *New Britain Herald*, “First Pictures of Vocational School Which Will Be Erected on Bassett St.”, September 21, 1914.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

The seeds of the third building on campus, the 1923 State Trade School, were planted in the basement of the Vocational High School. While the Vocational High School offered general courses of study focused more on the practical, the school was not intending on students upon graduation "to be finished artisans." Conceptually, the coursework was focused on the student and his or her development. In contrast, the function of the trade school was to cooperate with local industry to fulfill specific industrial skill requirements, often with "school" time spent away from the school in an apprenticeship in the shop. Here, the goal upon graduation was to produce finished artisans. As described by then State Secretary of Education Charles Hine, "It is thus seen that in certain communities there is a demand for skilled laborers in various trades and if there were boys trained in a trade school in those localities this demand would be lessened."⁸ The success of the trade program directly led to the construction of the 1923 school building along Main Street. The school was operated under contract with the State of Connecticut. The city provided the building with utilities, while the state contract funded the teachers.

In general and specific terms, the collection of three buildings operated as a single entity. All students were provided with course of study that was organized by content, not building. Hence, Vocational students could attend classes located in the Academic Building, and vice versa. In 1929, facing the need for yet more expansion, school officials contemplated an additional high school located elsewhere in the city, but ultimately opted both to retain a centralized secondary education campus but also to use the opportunity to unify the Vocational School and the Academic School into a single entity with a single primary entry and in so doing eliminating the specific building titles.

This new structure represented what had evolved conceptually into the comprehensive high school, a unified building that served the needs of all the families and made the extended years of schooling worthwhile for children of farmers and factory workers, as well as those heading to white collar jobs and college. In part, this focus was driven by the fact that even this late into the twentieth century, high school was still considered to predominately serve the needs and desires of children of upper-middle class. Too, this focus was driven by the awareness heightened in the years following World War I, of the great importance of inculcating democratic and citizenship values.

The last piece of the campus is the 1939 Public Works Administration-funded addition to the Trade School Building. This addition is best understood simply as a structure that could double the size of the school's capacity, a school that had grown exponentially since inception in this largely manufacturing city.

The Public School campus remained the center of the city's secondary education until 1961. That year, the trade school component was moved to a new \$1 million building on a 23-acre site northwest of the town center. The need for the school sprung from continued demand. At the same time, as a higher percentage of high school students continued onto college, philosophically, the new campus represented a shift back to incorporate the student-centric vocational education including on-going adult education. The following year, the Public High School campus also ended its reign as the sole center of academic secondary education when Pulaski High School was built on the north side. Finally, in 1971, in the face of an aging and

⁸ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, New Britain Herald article, undated.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

outdated physical plant, the Public High School moved to a new \$12 million, 20-acre site at the south edge of town.

In 1978, the campus was adapted for senior housing. Perhaps ironically, many of the residents actually attended school there. Despite the change in use and the changes necessary for the new use, the site remains important to the community's educational heritage. The adaptive reuse in the 1970s was led by city leaders who wanted to save the then vacant buildings. Recognizing and preserving the six decade heritage of this campus as the center of the city's secondary education remains a critical community goal.

Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE

The Public High School Campus is also locally significant and eligible for listing on the National Register within the context of New Britain (Hartford County) under Criterion C: Architecture. It is an amalgamation of five structures that span forty years of educational architecture and represents the single most comprehensive resource within the community. The designs of each building evoke the values of the community toward education and the particular brand of education at that time. As a collection, these buildings divulge both common and distinct themes.

The first structure to be considered is the 1896 school. At the time of completion, the School Board pronounced it to be the one of the "finest in New England." Stylistically, the building is Renaissance, a then conscious reaction to the picturesque movement and a return to classical precedents. The building was three stories on a daylight basement, formally sited and located prominently across from a public square. It featured a formal entry, though one not intended for use by students. Classes were not segregated by sex, but male and female students entered at opposite sides of the building and were largely physically separated. Classrooms reflected a traditional approach, but with regard to natural light and ventilation, while smaller recitation rooms matched classrooms in number. Specific classrooms focused on the sciences (chemistry, biology and physics) while special rooms included a library and museum. The school also include an auditorium with gallery; seating there totaled 1,000, affirming a larger community role.

Chronologically, the second building was the 1915 Vocational High School, built at the south end of the campus along Bassett Street. As one would expect, the allocation of interior spaces varied substantially from the 1896 structure. The new vocational high school was dedicated to the development of specific skill sets. For boys, these skills included machining, plumbing, metalwork, woodworking, electrical, printing and mechanical drawing. For girls, these skills included homemaking, cooking, sewing, bookkeeping, typewriting and stenography. In form, the building again demonstrates the importance of access to natural light and ventilation. The exterior was designed in Collegiate Gothic. While stylistically different from the 1896 Public High School, the investment in contemporary exterior design again illustrates the community's willingness to invest in education. It is notable that although the school was dedicated to vocational endeavors, the commitment to design was no less substantial than the academic high school. The Collegiate Gothic style gained popularity in school design beginning in 1909 with Charles Maginnis' design of Gasson Hall at Boston College and the style became the prevailing style for schools and colleges.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

This materials and design palette was continued and elaborated in the 1929 high school building. Intended to create a unified school design, the school board turned to a national architectural firm that specialized in school designs. For its architect, the board turned to the Warren S. Holmes Company of Chicago and Lansing. The primary contributions were the creation of a signature and dramatic entry that featured extensive and elaborate symbolic cast-stone decoration, and an equally dramatic library space.

This balance of utility and notable exterior design continues on the east side of the campus as well. At first blush, the 1923 Trade School building appears box-like with slight effort at design. To a notable degree, this simplicity was driven by the limited funding sources and the reliance on state contributions. Nonetheless, this simple building featured compatible Collegiate Gothic inspired trim with a distinguishing cast-stone entry with leaded glass transoms. In contrast, interior spaces were defined primary by need for flexibility with the north and south ends of each floor dedicated to specific trades (auto repair; carpentry and pattern making on the first floor, with machining and electrical/printing on the second floor).

The final building was the 1939 Art Moderne addition to the Trade School. Funded by the PWA, the exterior featured a distinguishing streamlined, modern, and equally elaborate counterpoint to the monumental Collegiate Gothic high school entry on the west. (See Figure 8). Again on the interior, the building continued to embrace standard values of light, ventilation and utility.

As a collection, these five structures provide fascinating illustration to the evolution, consistency and change in school architecture from the end of the nineteenth century to World War II. They are a design expression of the community's investment in education while reflecting the social and education theories of their era.

Conclusion

The New Britain Public High School campus is locally significant and eligible for listing on the National Register within the context of New Britain (Hartford County) under Criterion A: Education. The campus is also locally significant and eligible for listing on the National Register within the context of New Britain (Hartford County) under Criterion C: Architecture. The resource is an amalgamation of five structures built over five decades to advance secondary education in the community. From 1896 to 1961, it served as the sole location for secondary education in New Britain. At the same time, the evolution of the site and the construction of the five buildings illustrate the changing manner in which the community addressed secondary education.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

From 1896 to 1971, New Britain's secondary education was centered on this campus south of the town center. Formal education in the community dated to the seventeenth century and included a number of private schools. Yet as late as the 1840s, Connecticut did not have a public high school. The first such school was in Hartford and opened in 1847. That school established the model for other schools in the state. Course offerings were divided into three programs: the Classical Course, which served as preparation for college, the English Course, which gave a practical four year curriculum, and the Partial Course, which could be completed

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

in two years and was tailored to those students who wished to begin work early. Coursework was generally rigorous with few electives and typically schools required a stringent entry exam.

Additionally, schools fostered clubs for activities and sports so as to also serve a socializing function.

For New Britain, the opportunity for a public school arose in 1849 when the Connecticut General Assembly appropriated a four-year grant of \$10,000 to create a Normal School, provided that the school building was provided to the state without expense. The town of New Britain formed the New Britain Educational Fund Company. The town hall, then under construction at Chestnut and Main Streets, was offered to the state. The building would double as the town's elementary and high school. The public school was on the first floor and the Normal School on the second. New Britain was one of the first communities in the state to offer high school education to those within the town limits. It was the first to make that education free to residents; it wasn't until 17 years later, in 1867, that the state guaranteed universal free tuition. The initial student body numbered 50, including both boys and girls with ages ranging from 9 to 27; the majority being 13 to 16.

Coursework was three years in length. New Britain was the first school to establish graduation standards: "1) read fluently; 2) spell correctly; 3) bear through examination in arithmetic as far as percentages; 4) show knowledge of the elements of grammar; 5) be acquainted with a general knowledge of world geography and 6) the history of the United States; and 7) write a legible, fair hand."⁹ ¹⁰ The first class to receive diplomas was 1867. During these years, New Britain's population rapidly grew, from 3,029 in 1850 to 5,385 in 1860 to 9,480 in 1870 and 13,979 in 1880. As the town grew, so too did the school's population, resulting in serious overcrowding. This overcrowding was relieved first in 1867 with the construction of Rockwell Elementary School and further relieved with the construction of Burritt Elementary School in 1871; both of these schools relieved the primary school of housing elementary students. Overcrowding was further reduced when the Normal School constructed a new building in 1882.

New Britain however continued to grow – reaching 19,007 in 1890 – and the town hall high school was considered increasingly inadequate both as a city institution and as an education facility. At a town meeting on May 23, 1895, a resolution was passed to erect and equip the town's first high school building. For the project, it appropriated \$125,000. Previously, the town had purchased the site at the south end of New Britain from the Bassett estate, one of the town's scions, for \$18,000. It was this act that established what would be New Britain's only high school campus for the next eight decades.

The architect for the New School was William C. Brocklesby, a prominent and well-regarded Connecticut architect. Born in 1841, Brocklesby graduated from Trinity College in Hartford and then studied architecture with distinguished New York architect and AIA founder Richard Upjohn. At the time of the New Britain high school, Brocklesby had only recently finished the Alumnae Gymnasium for Smith College and Forbes Library, both in Northampton, Massachusetts and the National Fire Insurance Building in Hartford. The contractor of the

⁹ Herbert E. Fowler, *A History of New Britain Connecticut* (New Britain, CT: New Britain Historical Society, 1960), 78 and 229.

¹⁰ Kenneth Larson, *A Walk Around Walnut Hill, New Britain, Connecticut*, (New Britain, CT: The Art Press, 1978). 16.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

school was O. F. Curtis of New Britain. Construction began in September, 1895 and the timber-framed building was occupied April, 1897. In plan, the school featured eight large classrooms designed to accommodate 50 students each on the lower two floors. Supplementing the classrooms were a first floor reception room, smaller recitation rooms, a library, offices and coatrooms. At the third floor, the classrooms were replaced with laboratories for "physical," "chemical," "biological" and "drawing" along with space for a museum. At the rear was a large assembly hall with balcony that seated 1,000; below the assembly hall at the daylight basement level was a gymnasium.

Upon opening, the school had 280 students. Studies were on the department plan with 16 teachers, "each a specialist in some particular study or studies". The curriculum focused on seven core courses but also included zoology, biology, Greek, astronomy, political economy, music, cooking and sewing, physical culture and elocution.¹¹ The school also included a number of extracurricular activities: These included a literary society and sports teams for football, bicycling, and polo.¹²

In the assessment of the school board, "The present High School building is one of the finest in New England."¹³ At the same time, the school board also noted that compared to other towns, New Britain's education was a bargain. New Britain cost \$22.82 per student compared to Hartford at \$37.01, an average of Connecticut cities at \$24.64 and an average of Massachusetts towns at \$27.57 per student.¹⁴

Over the next twenty years, the town of New Britain continued to grow rapidly, establishing itself as a manufacturing center nicknamed "Hardware City." With continuing demand for labor, population continued to grow at a significant clip. From 1890 to 1900, population increased 48 percent and then another 56 percent in the next decade. By 1920, New Britain's population was just shy of 60,000, three times what it was when Brocklesby was designing the 1896 high school.

The school was hopelessly overcrowded. In twenty years, school attendance had risen 146 percent, from 280 to 686 students in 1913. The functional capacity of the school, designed for 400, was seriously stretched. The School Board was well aware of the problem: students were placed on a half-day schedule with upper classes attending in the morning and freshman and sophomores in the afternoon. But the board also recognized that manipulating the schedule was only a temporary solution. Rather, the board began discussions about adding a new school. Given population growth and elementary enrollments, within a few years, the board anticipated high school attendance to be over 1,000.

In the course of those discussions, members of the board noted an increasing number of students who were dropping out; students leaving school to go to work, students for whom a classic education was not relevant. In the decade prior, the issue of vocational education in

¹¹ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, "Annual Report of the School Committee, New Britain Connecticut, 1896-97", The High School Building, (New Britain, CT: Press of Adkins Printing Co., 1897), 46.

¹² New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, The New Britain Record, "The Proposed New High School Building: Description in Detail of its Construction, Ornamentation and Arrangement", May 22, 1895.

¹³ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, "Annual Report of the School Committee, New Britain Connecticut, 1896-97", The High School Building, (New Britain, CT: Press of Adkins Printing Co., 1897).

¹⁴ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, "Annual Report of the School Committee, New Britain Connecticut, 1899-00", The High School Building, (New Britain, CT: Press of Adkins Printing Co., 1897), 18-19.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

Connecticut had received attention with the State Board of Education forming a Special Commission on Vocation Education. Given the town's manufacturing focus, the concept of vocation education resonated with New Britain's school leaders.¹⁵ "Give the boys and girls a chance,' is the slogan of the school board. Many boys and girls remove themselves from school life after graduating from the Grammar school because there is nothing in a higher academic training that appeals to them".¹⁶ "Practical education, with manual, as well as mental labor, appeals to many boys and girls ...there are hundreds of boys and girls to whom classical curricula means nothing but hours of study, of uninteresting brain work, and to these the introduction of courses where they are permitted to exercise their creative ability and actually make something tangible...is a welcome relief. It is for these future citizens that the Vocation school will be constructed".¹⁷

By 1914, the School Board committed to building a new high school, this one vocational in orientation. It was to be co-located with the current high school, which would now be known as the "Academic High School". A parcel just to the south of the present school was acquired for \$33,500 and the new building was projected to cost \$168,545, opening in the fall of 1915. The architect was Walter P. Crabtree. Crabtree had been born in Rochester, NY in 1873. From 1901-04, he was employed in the office of New Britain architect William C. Cadwell, but in 1904, he opened an independent practice in West Hartford, one that he continued until 1950. At the time, Crabtree was noted for designing a number of downtown commercial buildings, such as the National Bank Building in New Britain and the Bristol Trust Company. He was also recognized as the architect of a number of the larger upscale residences in town. (He would later gain notice as the architect of the Fairfield State Hospital).¹⁸

With the new building, the high school could accommodate upwards to 1,150 students. In design, it was straightforward and considerably more austere in design than the original high school: two full stories above a daylight basement with double loaded corridors in a "T"-shape. The first floor had a series of classrooms along the street face with a print shop on the north and sewing room on the south. It also had large rooms for mechanical drawing, as well as faux household rooms for home economics. The second floor had space for bookkeeping, typewriters and stenography. The basement housed a plumbing shop, metal pattern shop, electrical shop, machine shop and laboratory. Like its curriculum, the school's design placed a priority on function over style.

As the Vocation School was coming to fruition, the industrial leaders of New Britain and other Connecticut communities began clamoring for another kind of school, a trade school specifically focused on building the skill set of the state through an apprenticeship program.

To advance the cause of a trade school, the Connecticut legislature passed the Trade School Act of 1909 which provided funding for trade schools and encouraged evening classes. The specific intent was to create a training opportunity for those with a grammar school diploma. Unlike the academic or even vocational school education, the trade school focused more

¹⁵ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, New Britain Herald, "This City Leads in Prevocational Work: New Building Will be First of Its Kind in the United States", February 6, 1914.

¹⁶ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, New Britain Herald, "First Pictures of Vocational School Which Will Be Erected on Bassett St.", September 21, 1914.

¹⁷ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, New Britain Herald, "State Trade School Until Next August: Local School Board Will Ask State Officials to Finish Next Year's Work", September 21, 1914.

¹⁸ National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Masonic Temple/Temple B'Nai Israel, New Britain, CT., 1995.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

exclusively on technical courses ranging from dressmaking and beauty culture to automobile repair and dye-making within the context of an apprenticeship program where they worked halftime at the respective factories. "There are classes for both sexes. Useful arts that are not taught in academic courses in other schools are its features and it is thought to be the belief of the state board that the school would simply parallel the Vocational High School, which will seek to teach the same courses on a more extensive scale."

Conceptually, advocates envisioned creating school facilities that included academic, vocation and technical training, and the flexibility in a single location to respond to varied student needs. As such, the State Board of Education successfully broached the notion with the New Britain School Board of locating the Trade School in the basement of the new vocation school. In return, the state board and local manufacturers association donated \$24,000 worth of machinery to the school.

Co-located with the Vocational and Academic High Schools, the purpose of locating the Trade School at the high school was to create a "common basis of knowledge, ideal and aspiration." A core underlying theme was the need to build citizenship qualities for what were often children of recent immigrants. In real terms, both boys and girls were assigned roughly nine hours a week to industrial work and twenty-one hours to regular school work. The latter includes English, arithmetic, geography, history and civics, reading and literature, science and health, music, penmanship and physical exercise.¹⁹

Organizationally, the Public School campus then comprised three institutions in a single location: The Public High School, the Vocational High School and the State Trade School. As described by Edith Adams, historian of the New Britain High School, "New Britain had three complete and fully administered secondary schools (Academic, Vocational and Trade), functioning as one".²⁰ To that end, the school offered students a single brochure for "Courses of Study and Practice" that included academic standards and options for trade education, college technical, normal, and college classical. It also detailed which building the courses were located in.²¹

For its part, the Trade School proved to be very successful. In 1918, the school had 139 students. Four years later, in 1921, there were 262 – a 90% increase. At the same time, both the Academic and Vocational school populations grew. From 1910 to 1920, New Britain's population grew by 35 percent and the combined attendance at the Academic and Vocation Schools was topping 1,000.²² Quickly, the state board of education began to contemplate physical expansion. Given the success of the co-location to date, school planners did not envision moving but of a freestanding addition on land adjacent southeast of the Academic High School along South Main Street. Planners saw value in locating trade students so they would have more exposure to the academic aspects of the high school.

¹⁹ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, Edith A. Adams, The High School New Britain Connecticut 1850-1950, (New Britain), 105.

²⁰ Ibid, 60.

²¹ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, "Courses of Study and Practice", The Public High School, New Britain Connecticut, 1916.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

In 1922, residential parcels along South Main Street adjacent to the Academic and Vocational High School were acquired and a three story masonry building was constructed for \$159,617 and occupied in 1923. The architect for the project was Max Unkelbach of New Britain. Born in New Britain in 1876 and of German descent, like Crabtree, had received his training in the office of William C. Cadwell. In 1910, Unkelbach joined another Cadwell employee, Delbert K. Perry, to create the firm of Unkelbach and Perry. The firm remained until 1918 when Perry moved to Middletown to do government work. Unkelbach remained in New Britain, continuing as a sole practitioner. Prior to this time, Unkelbach was responsible for factories for the Stanley Works and an armoury at the Connecticut Agricultural College. In addition to the State Trade School, Unkelbach designed Elihu Burritt School and an addition to Nathan Hale Junior High School.

Like the Vocational High School, aspects of function and practicality were more important in the new building than aesthetic design. The new rectangular building measured 200 feet long and 70 feet deep with a floor plate of 14,000 square-feet. Of mill and steel construction, the exterior was simply organized with slight decoration; five largely uniform bays of four grouped windows flanking a central entry bay. At the southwest rear, there was a one-story structure for the masonry department. On the interior too, the building was simply organized with a central stair and adjacent toilet on each floor; north and south were large open rooms dedicated to carpentry and auto repair on the first floor, machining, electrical and printing on the second floor, and drawing and classrooms on the third floor. Interior partitions were designed to permit removal and rearrangement. Upon opening, the new building had an enrollment of 400 day students and 150 evening students.

Attendance continued to accelerate. In that period from 1915 to 1925, high school enrollment had grown by 60 percent. As telling, the Junior High Schools had similar attendance enrollment growth. By mid-decade, the New Britain School Bulletin, issued by the School Department, was agitating for new facilities system wide. "Each year the schools are called upon to provide school rooms, seats, books and supplies for approximately 500 more children than were registered the preceding year."²³ In those discussions, unlike previous school expansion discussions that focused on expanding the current facility, some in the community advocated for a second high school, one located on the north side.

Ultimately however, the board opted for a single high school campus for the community. Conceptually, the board's goal was to integrate the Academic and Vocational High School into a single structure with a new primary entry off Bassett Street. The site was currently under School Board ownership, the old Bassett home then being used as an "open air" school and located between the two school buildings. For its architect, the board turned to the Warren S. Holmes Company of Chicago and Lansing. The firm's principal was 43-year old Warren Samuel Holmes. Founded in 1920, the firm was active in the upper Midwest and focused primarily on the design of educational buildings. It is possible that Max Unkelbach, who later associated with Holmes as project manager, served as the construction architect. The contractor was Hayes Construction. Completed at a cost of \$596,110, the school was dedicated on February 10, 1930.²⁴

²³ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, "Annual Report of the School Committee, New Britain Connecticut, The High School Building, 1925".

²⁴ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, Edith A. Adams, The High School New Britain Connecticut 1850-1950, (New Britain), 73.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

The intent of the 1929 structure was to create a new modern front door to the school. The building was drawn of the late Gothic Revival style, also known as Collegiate Gothic, which had flourished at upscale colleges as nearby as Yale. The building replaced the auditorium of the 1896 structure and added standard sized classrooms. It also features a highly decorated Gothic Revival Library. In 1941, the library was adorned by three WPA-funded murals installed by Frank Rutkowski and assisted by Ernest Hart and Austin Ayers.²⁵ The 5.5 by 13 foot murals, based on a design by Salvatore de Maio, depicted "American Industry," "American History" and "American Education".

The final structure on the campus was the expansion of the State Trade School. A decade after the first State Trade School building, the facilities were again hopelessly overcrowded. By 1936, enrollment in the Trade School had 527 students. This included 245 full time trade students, 208 cooperative high school students, and 74 factory apprentices.²⁶ Waiting lists were common.²⁷ In 1936 alone, approximately 150 full time and 200 half time candidates were denied admission for lack of space. The limited space meant trade education would be limited to boys. Yet, this enrollment was not even sufficient to supply workers at a normal replacement rate. At the same time, the state had 43,000 youths seeking employment, 73 percent of whom were untrained for any skilled occupation.

As with the discussions for a new high school, the trade school initially explored the acquisition of land at a former manufacturing site. But as with the high school expansion and as with the location of the trade school originally, one of the most important ingredients to site selection was proximity to the senior high school so that students could carry on cooperative courses.²⁸

On June 20, 1938, the New Britain School Board announced that the Public Works Administration approved a grant of \$130,000 for an addition to the existing building. With PWA funding, the board looked to the State Legislature for the balance. To that end, New Britain's Mayor and School Superintendent met successfully with the Governor to secure funding commitment. With funding in hand, in August, 1938, the school proceeded to acquire the five residential parcels south of the current trade school for \$38,500. The next month, bids were issued for construction, heating, plumbing and electrical work. The anticipate addition would cost \$289,000. The architect was again the Warren S. Holmes Company. Again, it was likely that Max Unkelbach served as the local architect on the project.

In the design, the school attempted to find a balance between style and practicality. As with the earlier trade school building, the new structure was rectangular with an emphasis on the interior of adaptability. The exterior emphasized modernity with strong horizontal emphasis created by banding of metal panels and multi-light windows. The entry featured stylized cast-stone trim with metal canopy and accent metal base relief medallions. With the expansion, the school was now able to offer 17 trades from machining to drafting, from dental assistants to sewing. In addition to the trades, the school also offered evening homemaking courses with 600 students.

²⁵ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, New Britain Herald, "New Murals Seen in Local Schools: Industrial and Nathan Hale Motifs Inspiring to Pupils", March 27, 1941.

²⁶ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, New Britain Herald, "New Britain First in Trade Training: Local Manufacturers Aided Movement Begun Here 1910", March 23, 1910.

²⁷ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, New Britain Herald, "Facilities Taxed at Trade School: Officials Point Out Need of More Accommodations", November 11, 1936.

²⁸ New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files, New Britain Herald, "New Trade School Site is Approved: Board Endorses Purchase of Whiting Street Property", December 19, 1936.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

During the years of World War II, demands on the trade school drastically increased as the federal government established classes there to train Army Aircraft machinists. At this point, the school was operating 23 hours a day. Continued demand, combined with continued overcrowding at the high school, resulted in the trade school establishing its own secondary school curriculum in 1944. As enrollment growth continued unabated, beginning in the 1950s, a Citizen's Consulting Committee was formed to aid the state in exploring a new trade school campus with new broader curriculum. In 1957, the General Assembly appropriated \$1 million to acquire a 23-acre site from the Federal Housing Authority on Slater Road. The following year, the legislature appropriated another \$2.7 million for a new modern facility. The new plant offered 124,000 square-feet with 17 shops, 10 classrooms, 3 laboratories, gymnasium, and cafeteria and service space. The new complex opened in 1961. Through the 1950s and 1960s, New Britain continued to grow, albeit by a slower rate. By 1950, the town's population hit 73,726 and in 1970, peaked at 83,441. For its part, high school enrollment was nearing 2,000. Again facing overcrowding, to respond to changing demographics, the city this time opted to create a second high school on the north side; Pulaski High School, was added in 1962; the result was to reduce enrollment at New Britain High School to 1300 while also allowing the school to return to a four-year curriculum.

Ironically, the departure of the State Trade School and the creation of Pulaski only highlighted the aging nature of the New Britain High School. Pulaski's modern plant contrasted dramatically with the tired condition of the high school. At this point, the Trade School building was not vacant but with declining enrollments, the High School had no need to use the building. The Trade School was mothballed but remained an attractive nuisance for vandalism. This only further undermined the high school as an educational resource.

By the end of the 1960s, the New Britain School Board was ready to close its nineteenth century school and build new. In July, 1969, the board made the ultimate decision and acquired at 20-acre site at the south end of town, only a short distance from the current school was identified and a modern \$12 million school campus, complete with athletic fields and stadium was completed in 1971. The high school building, like the trade school building before, was mothballed and remained an attractive nuisance for vandalism.

In the late 1970s, the Crowninshield Corporation adapted the campus for senior housing, first the high school building and then the trade school building.²⁹ "School I" as it was named was transformed into 127 units at a rehabilitation cost of just below \$3 million. "School II" had 98 units, rehabilitated at a cost of just above \$3 million. The projects were made possible with funding for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. At the time, the adaptive reuse was hailed both locally and nationally as an outstanding historic preservation example of adaptive reuse of a school. Favorable reviews included then Governor Ella Grasso, US Congressman Anthony Moffatt and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

²⁹ The Crowninshield Corporation is a property management organization. It was founded in 1973 and currently manages more than 5,000 residential and commercial units.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- Adams, Edith A. *The High School of New Britain Connecticut 1850-1950*. New Britain: Edith A. Adams.
- Baker, Lindsay. *A History of School Design and its Indoor Environmental Standards, 1900 to Today*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Building Science, January 2012.
- "Biographical Dictionary of Hartford Architects". Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 54. No. 1-2. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1989.
- City Directories for 1872 onward. Various Publishers. New Britain Public Library. Collection of the Local History Room.
- Collier, Christopher. *Connecticut's Public Schools: A History, 1650-2000*. Orange, CT: Clearwater Press, 2009.
- Foster, Sherrill. *1984 Historic Resources Inventory*. New Britain: City Improvement Commission, 1984.
- Fowler, Herbert E. *A History of New Britain Connecticut*. New Britain, CT: New Britain Historical Society, 1960.
- Gordon, Howard R. *The History and Growth of Vocational Education in America*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 1999.
- Larson, Kenneth. *A Walk Around Walnut Hill, New Britain, Connecticut*. New Britain, CT: The Art Press, 1978
- Maddox, Diane, ed. *Built in the U.S.A.: American Buildings from Airports to Zoos*. Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1994.
- Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. *An Honor and an Ornament: Public School Buildings in Michigan*. Detroit: Inland Press, 2003.
- New Britain Public Library, Local History Room, Vertical Files.
- New Britain Connecticut, 1850-1950*. New Britain, CT: City of New Britain, 1950.
- Pulliam, John D. and Van Patten, James J. *History of Education in America*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Press, 2007.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Fire Insurance Maps of New Britain, Connecticut. (1884, 1890, 1895, 1901, 1909, 1950, 1954, 1978).

Spencer, Robin C. (ed.). *New Britain Centennial, 1871-1971*. New Britain, CT: New Britain Centennial Committee, 1971.

Thibodeau, Patrick. *New Britain: The City of Invention*. Chatsworth, CA: Windsor Publications, 1989.

Tryon, Lillian Hart. *The Story of New Britain Connecticut*. Hartford, CT: Finlay Press, 1925.

Urban, Wayne J. and Wagoner, Jennings L., Jr. *American Education: A History*. New York, NY: Routledge Press, 2009.

Vitiello, Domenic. *Historic Educational Resources of Pennsylvania* (Unpublished; National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2007).

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: New Britain (CT) Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.83 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 0684831 | Northing: 4614424 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

All that certain piece or parcel of land, with all buildings and improvements thereon with the appurtenances thereof, located on the east side of Bassett Street, the south side of Rockwell Avenue and the west side of South Main Street in the City of New Britain, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut, shown and designated as "Parcel A" on a certain map or plan entitled

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

"Property of the City of New Britain to be Conveyed to Crowninshield Corporation at South Main St & Bassett St. New Britain, Conn. Feb. 24, 1975 Scale 1" = 40', revised through April 17, 1979, made by Edwin W. Szymanoski, Conn. L.S. #6408, which map is on file in the Town Clerk's Office in the said City of New Britain as Map 17/98. Said premises are more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the east line of Bassett Street, which point marks the northwest corner of land now or formerly of Mary Howley and the southwest corner of land herein described; thence running N 6° 44' 20" E along said east line of said Bassett Street, 289.50 feet to a drill hole; thence turning and running N 16° 28' 50" E along said east line of said Bassett Street, 351.50 feet to a drill hole located on the south side of Rockwell Avenue; thence turning and running S 84° 02' 30" E along the south line of said Rockwell Avenue, 104.0 feet to a point, which point marks the intersection of the south line of said Rockwell Avenue with the west line of said South Main Street; thence turning and running S 19° 32' 40" E along the west line of said South Main Street, 295.78 feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running S 70° 23' 38" W along the north line of Parcel B, 104.58 feet to a P K Nail; thence turning and running S 2° 23' 52" E along the west line of Parcel B, 191.72 feet to a P K Nail; thence turning and running S 19° 52' 52" E along the west line of Parcel B, 42.75 feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running N 70° 22' 08" E along the south line of Parcel B 3.27 feet to an iron pin in the west line of Parcel B; thence turning and running S 20° 47' 52" E along the west line of Parcel B, 105.65 feet to an iron pin which marks the northeast corner of land now or formerly of the St. Joseph's Church Corp. and the southeast corner of the land herein described; thence turning and running N 89° 23' 00" W along the north line of land now or formerly of the St. Joseph's Church Corp. 56.40 feet to a point; thence turning and running N 83° 15' 40" W along the north line of land now or formerly of the St. Joseph's Church Corp. and land now or formerly of Mary Howley, in part by each, a total distance of 246.0 feet to the point of beginning.

Together with the easements set forth in an Agreement by and between School Associates I and Goodwin Associates dated April 20, 1979 and recorded in Volume 746 at Page 222 of the New Britain Land Records.

Excepting therefrom that certain parcel of land conveyed to the State of Connecticut by virtue of a Warranty Deed from School Associates I dated February 1, 2005 and recorded in Volume 1578 at Page 920 of the New Britain Land Records.

And

A certain piece or parcel of land, with all buildings and improvements thereon with the appurtenances thereof, located on the west side of South Main Street in the City of New Britain, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut, shown and designated as "Parcel B" on a certain map or plan entitled "Property Of The Crowninshield Corp. At #161 South Main St. New Britain, Conn. Jan. 20, 1979 Rev. March 24, 1979 Rev. April 9, 1979 Scale 1" 40' Edwin W. Szymanski, Conn. L. S. #6408" which map or plan is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk of the said City of New Britain as Map No. 17/99, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the west line of South Main Street, which point marks the northeast corner of land now or formerly of the St. Joseph's Church Corp. and the southeast corner of the

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

land herein described; thence running S 79° 33' 40" W along the north line of land now or formerly of the St. Joseph's Church Corp., 163.35 feet to an iron pin; thence turning and running

N 12° 08' 30" W along the east line of land now or formerly of the St. Joseph's Church Corp., 76.30 feet to a point; thence turning and running N 15° 56' 30" W along the east line of land now or formerly of the St. Joseph's Church Corp., 49.30 feet to an iron pin which marks the northeast corner of land now or formerly of the St. Joseph's Church Corp. and the southeast corner of Parcel A, as shown on said map or plan; thence turning and running N 20° 47' 52" W along the east line of said Parcel A, 105.65 feet to a point; thence turning and running S 70° 22' 08" W along the north line of said Parcel A, 3.27 feet to a point in the east line of said Parcel A; thence turning and running N 19° 52' 52" W along the east line of said Parcel A, 42.75 feet to a point; thence turning and running N 2° 23' 52" W along the east line of said Parcel A, 191.72 feet to a P.K. nail in the south line of said Parcel A, which point marks the northwest corner of land herein described; thence turning and running N 70° 23' 38" E along the south line of Parcel A, 104.58 feet to a P.K. nail in the west line of South Main Street, which point marks the northeast corner of the land herein described; thence turning and running S 19° 32' 40" E along the west line of South Main Street, 444.72 feet to a drill hole; thence turning and running S 9° 10' 30" E along the west line of South Main Street, 38.33 feet to the point of beginning.

Together with an easement as reserved in a Warranty Deed from The Crowninshield Corporation to School Associates I dated July 29, 1977 and recorded in Volume 728 at Page 1094 of the New Britain Land Records.

Together with the easements as set forth in an Agreement by and between School Associates I and Goodwin Associates dated April 20, 1979 and recorded in Volume 746 at Page 222 of the New Britain Land Records.

And

A certain piece or parcel of land, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto, known as 68 Bassett Street, situated in the Town of New Britain, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut, and bounded and described as follows:

NORTH by land of the City of New Britain, or assigns, one hundred sixty-five (165) feet;

EAST by land of Saint Joseph's Corporation, or assigns, sixty-six (66) feet;

SOUTH by land of Nora Roche, or assigns, one hundred sixty-five and five tenths (165.5) feet, and;

WEST by Bassett Street, sixty-six (66) feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the legally recorded boundary lines for the property for which National Register status is being requested and includes the entirety of the property historically associated with the building.

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John M. Tess, President
organization: Heritage Consulting Group
street & number: 1120 NW Northrup Street
city or town: Portland state: Oregon zip code: 97209-2852
e-mail: jmtess@heritage-consulting.com
telephone: (503) 228-0272
date: May 14, 2014

Additional Documentation

Figure 1: Site Plan

Figure 2: Floor Plans – Existing

- A: Building 1 – First Floor
- B: Building 1 – Second Floor
- C: Building 1 – Third Floor *
- D: Building 1 – Basement
- E: Building 2 – First Floor
- F: Building 2 – Second Floor
- G: Building 2 – Third Floor

Figure 3: Post Card, Public High School (circa 1900)

Figure 4: Post Card, Vocational High School (circa 1915)

Figure 5: Post Card, Public High School (circa 1929)

Figure 6: Post Card, State Trade School Addition (circa 1938)

* Building 1 consists of three structures, 1896, 1915, 1929. The 1896 structure has three-stories and the 1929 has a partial third floor at the center and at the north. Figure 2C includes the existing floor plans for the 1896 and 1929 structures.

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.)

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

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: **New Britain Public High School Campus**

City or Vicinity: **New Britain**

County: **Hartford**

State: **Connecticut**

Photographer: **Heritage Consulting Group**

Date Photographed: **May, 2013**

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

- Photo 1 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0001
Building 1, Exterior, North Façade (1896 Building), camera facing south
- Photo 2 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0002
Building 1, Exterior, Main Entry, North Façade (1896 Building), camera facing south
- Photo 3 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0003
Building 1, Exterior, West Façade (1896 Building), camera facing southeast
- Photo 4 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0004
Building 1, Exterior, West Façade (1929 Building), camera facing east
- Photo 5 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0005
Building 1, Exterior, West Façade (1915 Building), camera facing east
- Photo 6 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0006
Building 1, Exterior, West Façade, camera facing northeast
- Photo 7 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0007
Building 1, Exterior, South and East Façades (1915 Building), camera facing northwest

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

- Photo 8 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0008
Building 1, Exterior, East (1929 Building) and South (1896 Building)
Façades, camera facing northwest
- Photo 9 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0009
Building 1, Exterior, South and East Façades (1896 Building), camera
facing northwest
- Photo 10 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0010
Building 1, Exterior, East Façade (1896 Building), camera facing west
- Photo 11 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0011
Building 1, Interior (1896 Building), First Floor, Main Entry, camera facing
north
- Photo 12 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0012
Building 1, Interior (1896 Building), First Floor, camera facing south from
Main Entry
- Photo 13 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0013
Building 1, Interior (1896 Building), First Floor, Corridor door with
wainscot, camera facing west
- Photo 14 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0014
Building 1, Interior (1896 Building), First Floor, Stairwell at NE, camera
facing northeast
- Photo 15 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0015
Building 1, Interior (1896 Building), Second Floor, Corridor, camera facing
south
- Photo 16 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0016
Building 1, Interior (1896 Building), Basement, Corridor, camera facing
south
- Photo 17 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0017
Building 1, Interior (1929 Building), First Floor, Lobby, camera facing west
- Photo 18 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0018
Building 1, Interior (1929 Building), First Floor, Lobby/Corridor, camera
facing south
- Photo 19 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0019
Building 1, Interior (1929 and 1915 Building), First Floor, Corridor, camera
facing south
- Photo 20 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0020

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

- Building 1, Interior (1929 Building), Second Floor, Corridor, camera facing south
- Photo 21 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0021
Building 1, Interior, (1929 Building), Second Floor, Library, camera facing south
- Photo 22 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0022 Building
1, Interior (1929 Building), Second Floor, Library, WPA Mural, camera
facing east
- Photo 23 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0023
Building 1, Interior (1929 and 1915 Building), Second Floor, Corridor,
camera facing south
- Photo 24 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0024
1, Interior, (1896 and 1915 Building), Stairwell, camera facing northeast
- Photo 25 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0025
Building 2, Exterior, East Façade (1923 Building), camera facing west
- Photo 26 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0026
Building 2, Exterior, East Façades (1939 Entry and 1923 Building),
camera facing northwest
- Photo 27 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0027
Building 2, Exterior, East Façade (1939 Addition), Entry, camera facing
southwest
- Photo 28 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0028
Building 2, Exterior, East Façade (1939 Addition), camera facing
southwest
- Photo 29 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0029
Building 2, Exterior, South Façade (1939 Addition), camera facing
northwest
- Photo 30 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0030
Building 2, Exterior, West Façade (1939 Addition), camera facing
northeast
- Photo 31 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0031
Building 2, Exterior, West Façade, (1939 Addition), camera facing east
- Photo 32 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0032
Building 2, Exterior, West Façade (1923 Building and 1939 Addition),
camera facing southeast

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

- Photo 33 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0033
Building 2, Interior, (1939 Addition), First Floor, Main Entry, camera facing east
- Photo 34 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0034
Building 2, Interior (1939 Addition), First Floor, Corridor, camera facing south
- Photo 35 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0035
Building 2, Interior, (1939 Addition), First Floor, Dining Room, camera facing west
- Photo 36 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0036
Building 2, Interior (1939 Addition), First Floor, Gymnasium, camera facing southeast
- Photo 37 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0037
Building 2, Interior, First Floor, camera facing north
- Photo 38 of 38: CT_HartfordCounty_NewBritainPublicHighSchoolCampus_0038
Building 2, Interior, (1923 Building), Second Floor, Stair, camera facing north

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Britain Public High School Campus

Name of Property

Hartford, CT

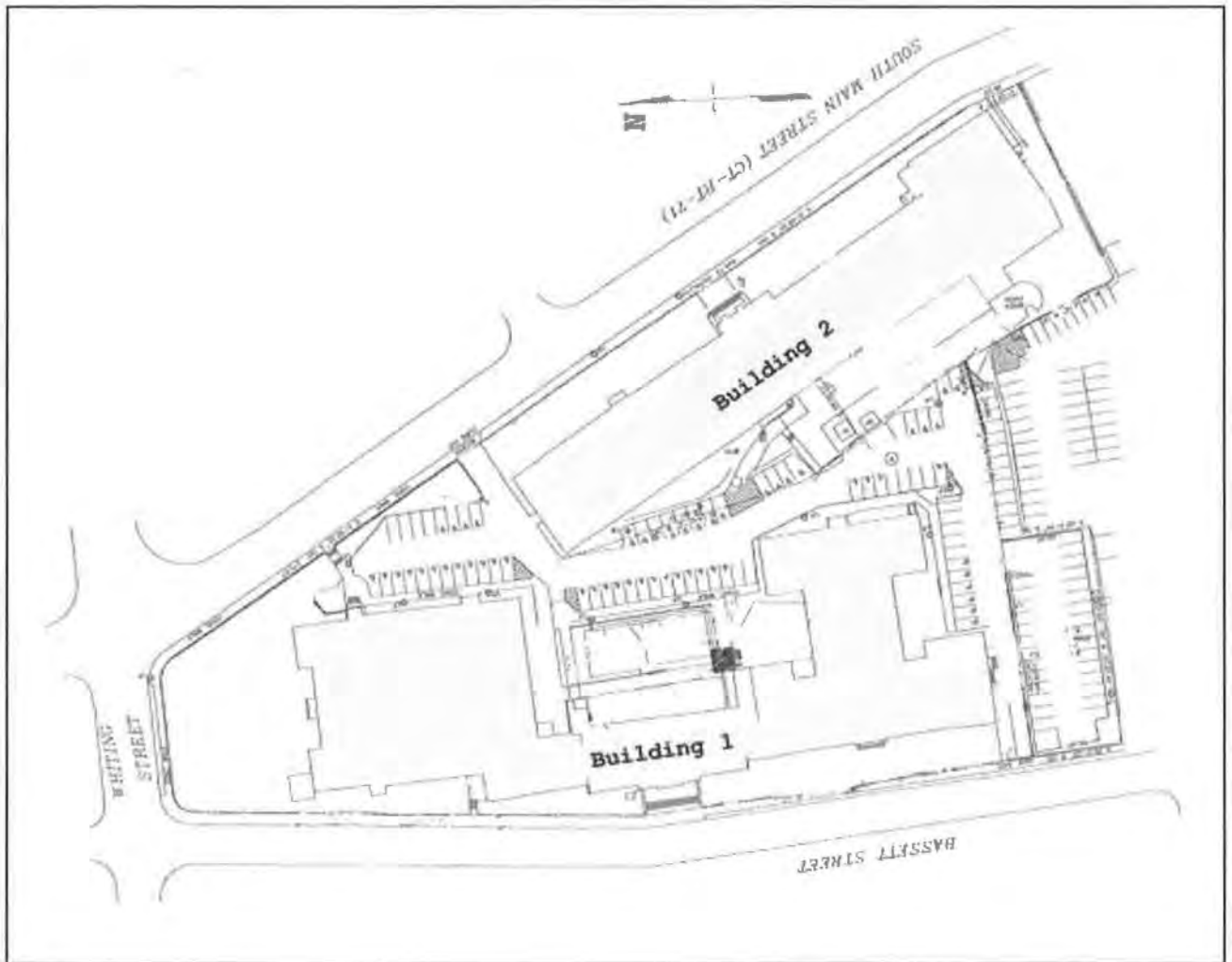
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 38

Figure 1: Boundary Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property
Hartford, CT
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 39

Figure 2 – A: Existing Floor Plans – Building 1 – First Floor

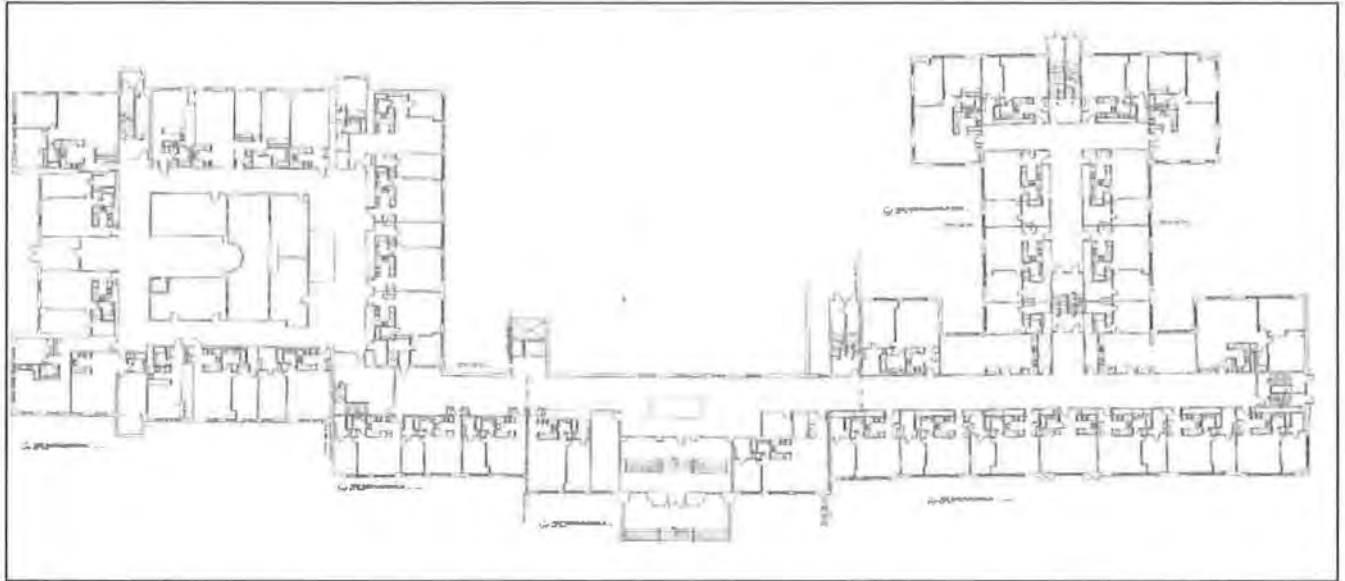
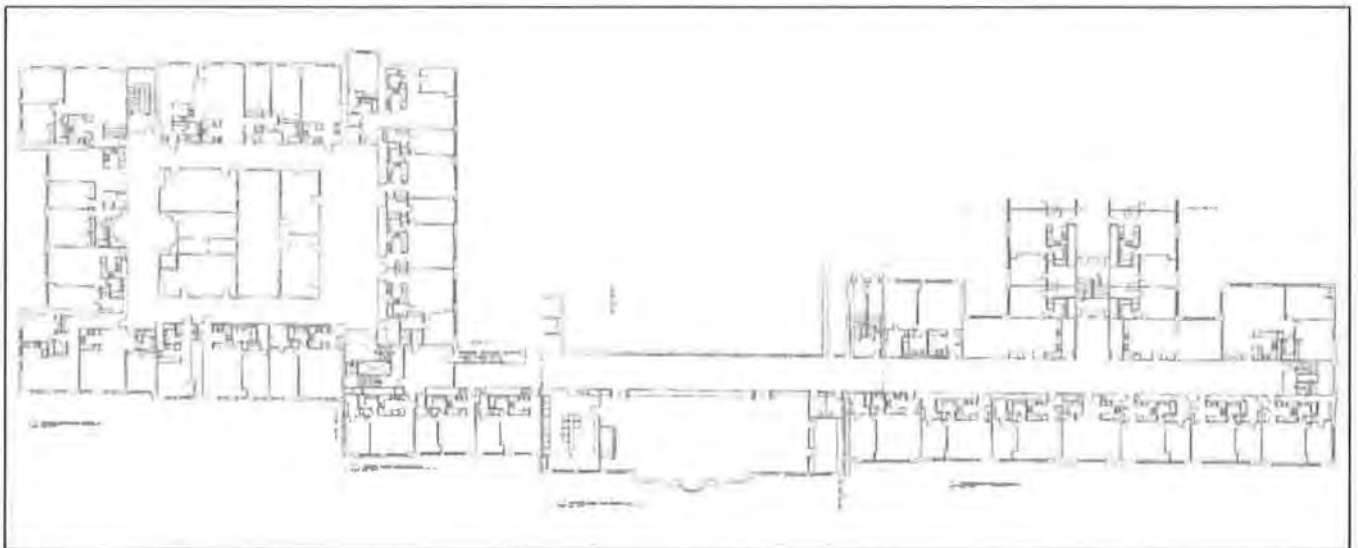


Figure 2 – B: Existing Floor Plans – Building 1 – Second Floor



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property
Hartford, CT
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 40

Figure 2 – C: Existing Floor Plans – Building 1 – Third Floor (1896 Structure)

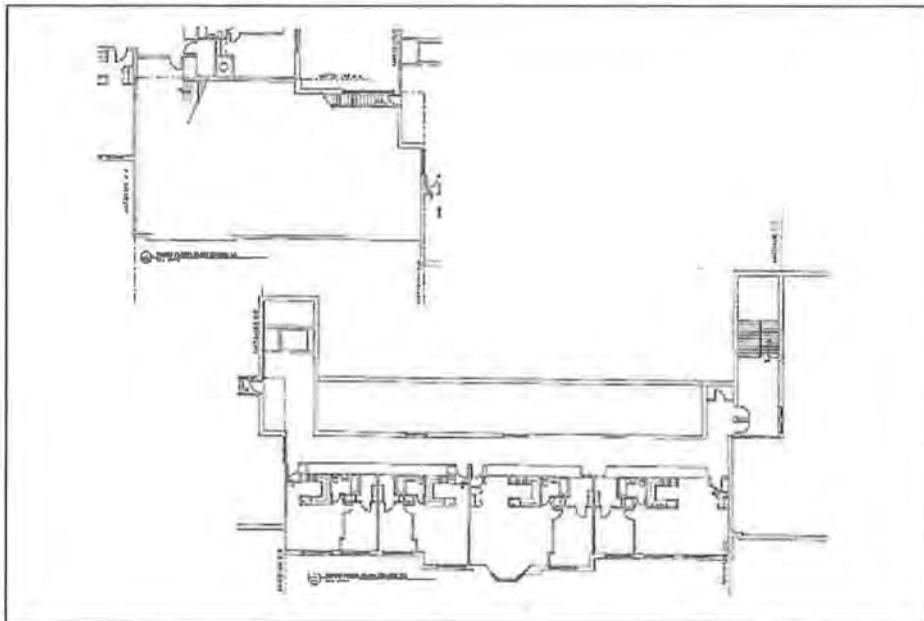
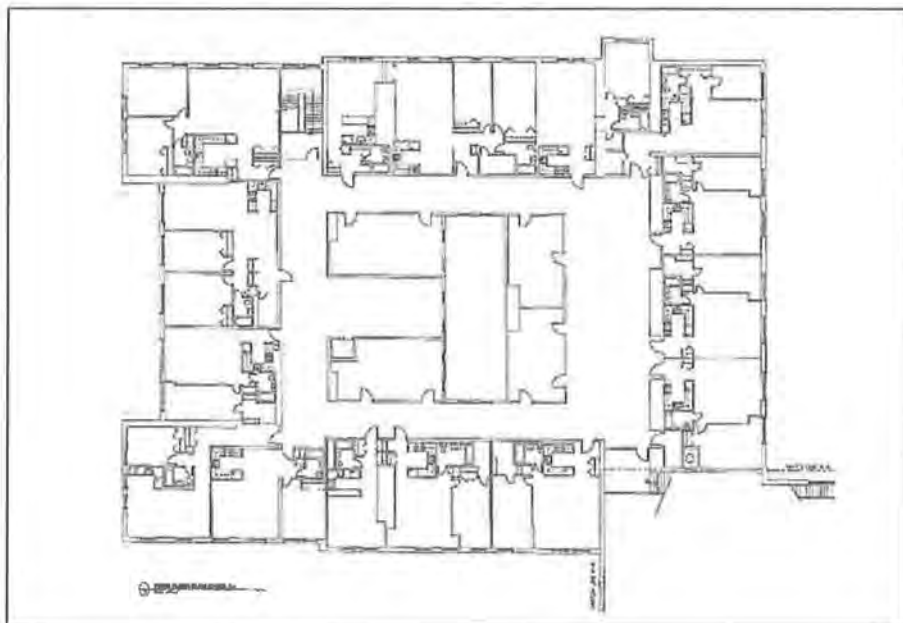


Figure 2 – C: Existing Floor Plans – Building 1 – Third Floor (1929 Structure)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property
Hartford, CT
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 41

Figure 2 – D: Existing Floor Plans – Building 1 Basement

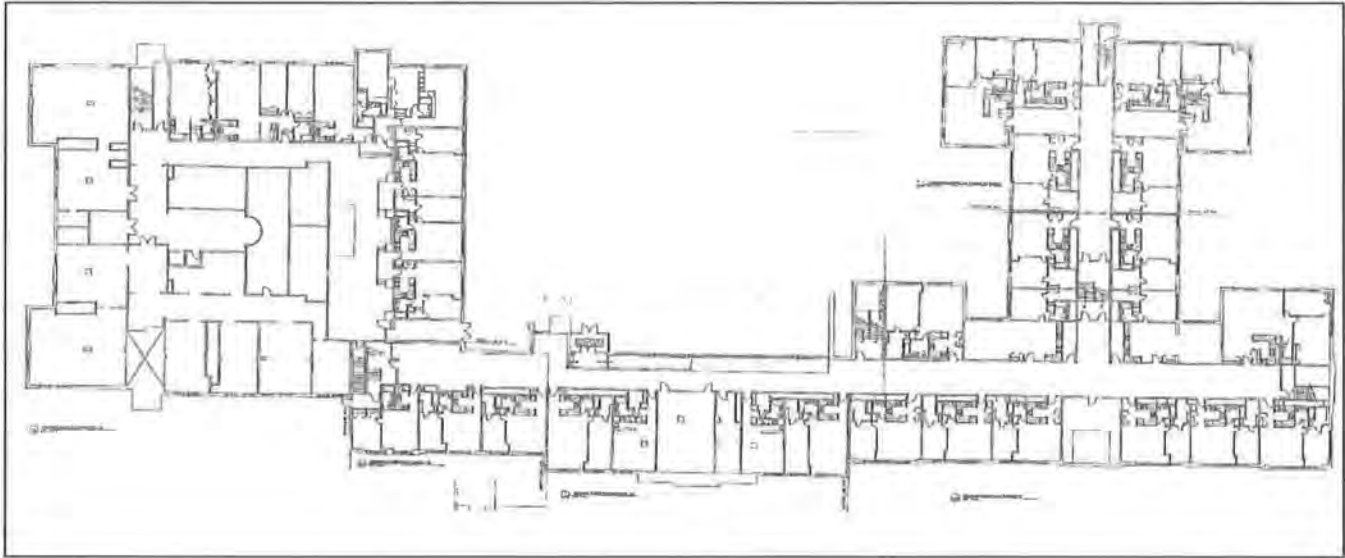
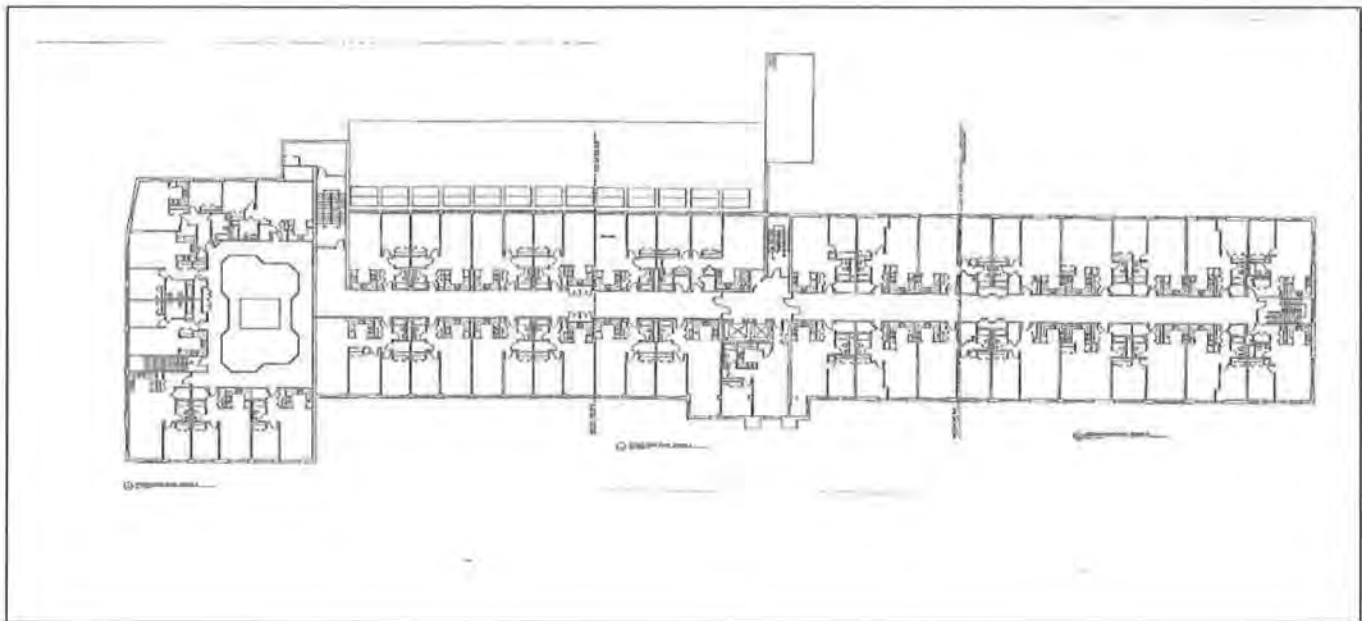


Figure 2 – E: Existing Floor Plans – Building 2 First Floor



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property
Hartford, CT
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 42

Figure 2 – F: Existing Floor Plans – Building 2 Second Floor

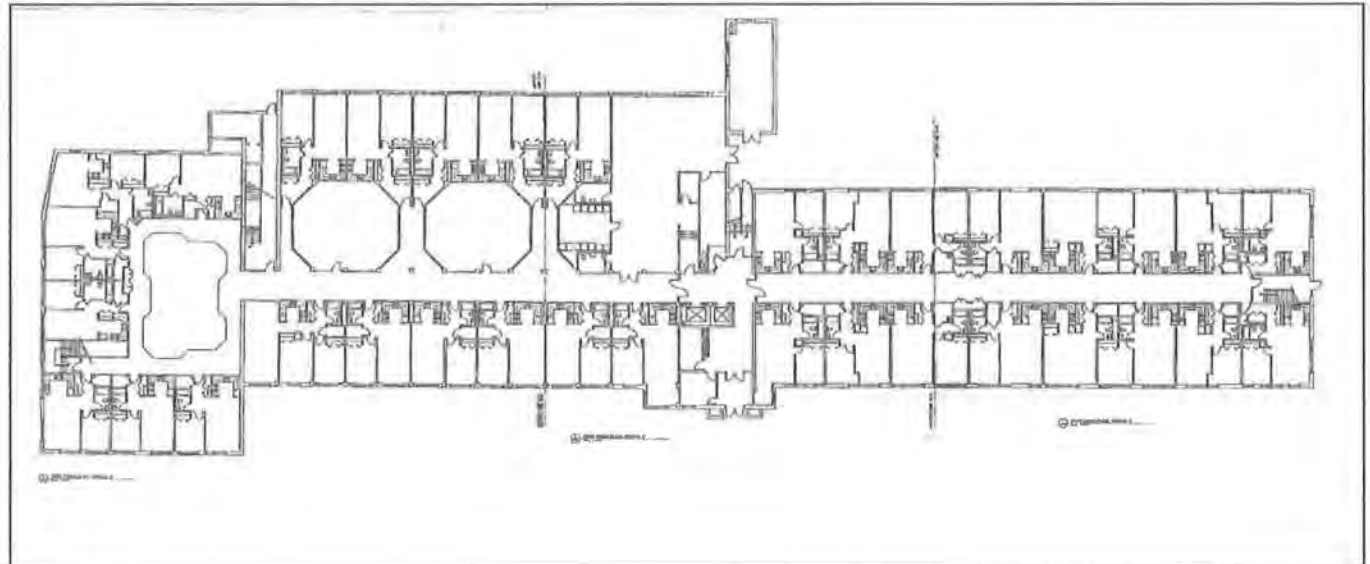
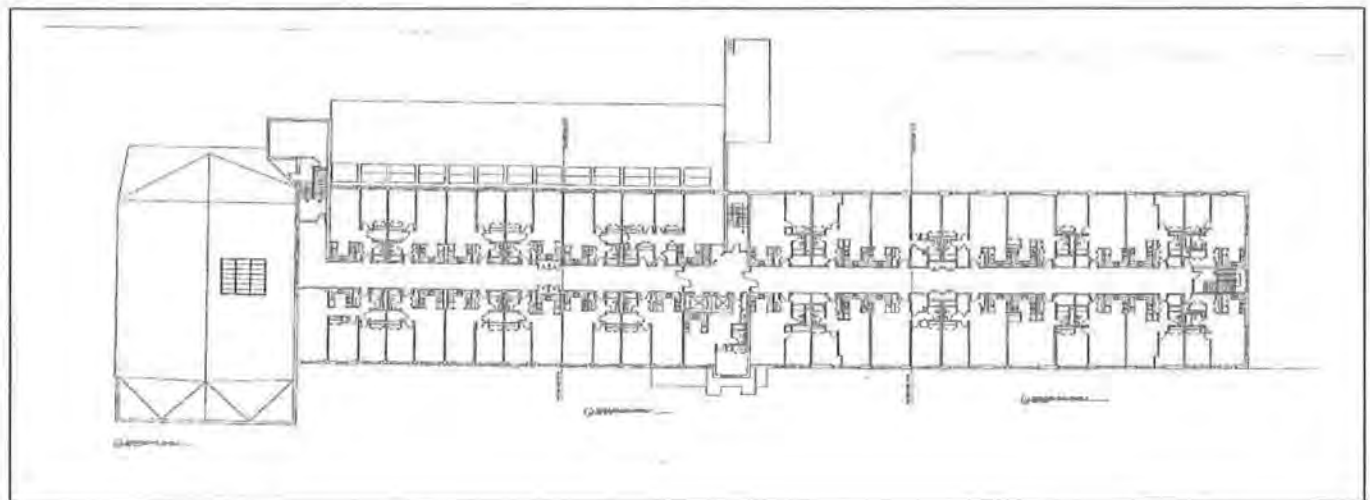


Figure 2 – G: Existing Floor Plans – Building 2 Third Floor



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

New Britain Public High School Campus

Name of Property

Hartford, CT

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 43

Figure 3: Post Card, Public High School (circa 1900)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property
Hartford, CT
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 44

Figure 4: Post Card, Vocational High School (circa 1915)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

New Britain Public High School Campus

Name of Property

Hartford, CT

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 45

Figure 5: Post Card, Public High School (circa 1929)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Britain Public High School Campus
Name of Property
Hartford, CT
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 46

Figure 6: Post Card, State Trade School Addition (circa 1938)















EXIT

EXHIBIT
A
EXHIBIT
B
EXHIBIT
C









RESOURCE







E.E. COODIN
SCHOOL

SCHOOL II APARTMENTS

111B





SCHOOL II APARTMENTS

161

161











EXIT



















School I
Apartments
7320 Street
229 7778
Accessibility icons: wheelchair, hearing aid, and visual aid.









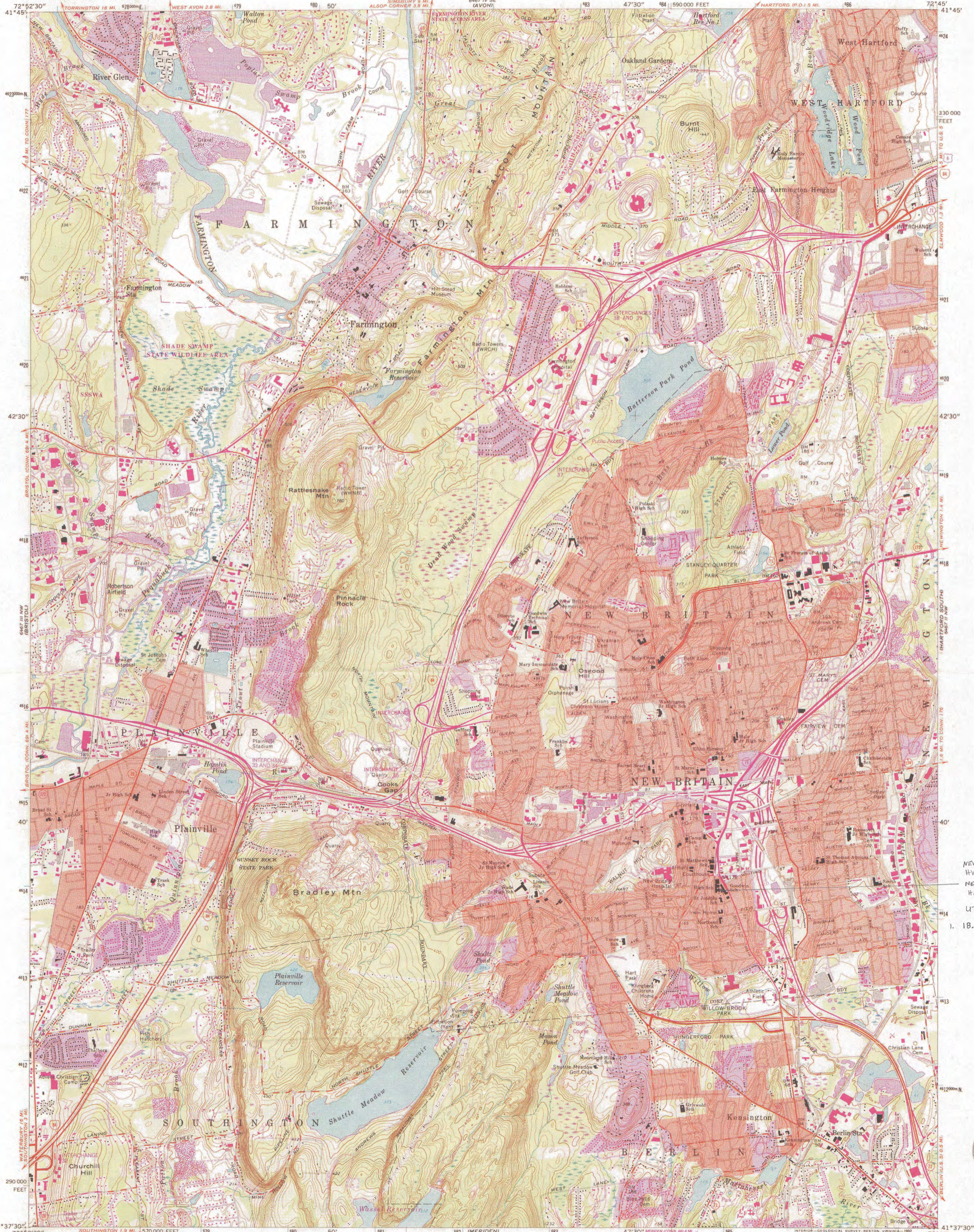








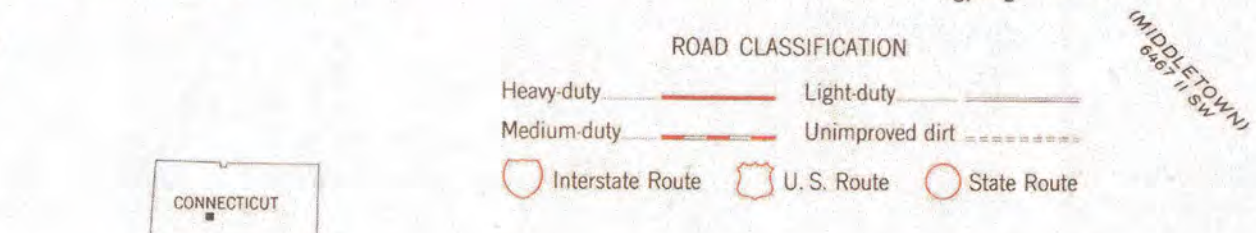
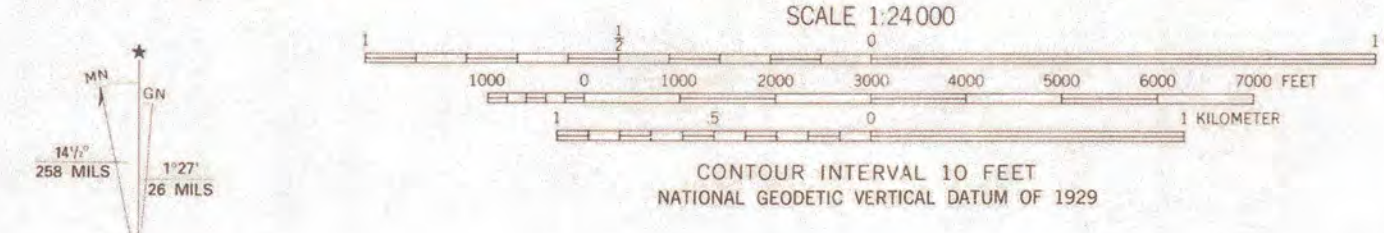




NEW BRITAIN PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS
NEW BRITAIN,
HARTFORD COUNTY, CT
UTM REFERENCE:
1. 18.0684831, 4614424

MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OCT 16 1996
REC'D FILE COM

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with Connecticut Highway Department
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Connecticut Geologic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1941. Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 5 meters south and
38 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled
from aerial photographs taken 1991 and other sources
Contours not revised. This information not field checked
Map edited 1992

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.
41072-F7-TF-024
1966
REVISED 1992
DMA 6467 III NE SERIES V816





Department of Economic and
Community Development

Connecticut
still revolutionary

February 3, 2015

Mr. Roger Reed
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005



Subject: New Britain Public High School Campus, Hartford County, Connecticut,
National Register Nomination

Dear Mr. Reed:

The following National Register nomination materials are submitted for your review:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Original USGS map
- Printed Photographs
- CD of Digital Photographs

This National Register nomination was approved by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Review Board on November 17, 2014. No letters of support or objection were received for this property.

If you have any questions, or if this office can be of assistance, please call Jenny Scofield at 860-256-2766.

Sincerely,

Jenny Scofield,
National Register and State Register Coordinator

State Historic Preservation Office

One Constitution Plaza | Hartford, CT 06103 | P: 860.256.2800 | Cultureandtourism.org

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer An Equal Opportunity Lender

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: New Britain Public High School Campus

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Hartford

DATE RECEIVED: 2/06/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/05/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/20/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/24/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000101

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA A,C

REVIEWER [Signature]

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 3/23/15

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

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