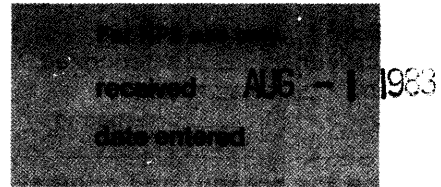


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Shortridge High School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3401 North Meridian Street N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Indianapolis Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. James A. Adams

street & number 120 East Walnut Street

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion Co., Center Township Tax Assessor's Office

street & number City-County Building, Room 1360, 200 East Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey Report for Indianapolis/
Marion County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 21, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission
1821 City-County Building

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Shortridge High School is a 253 feet by 418 feet hollow rectangular plan, three story red brick and grey Bedford limestone public school building, designed in the neo-classical revival style. (Photo 1) It was designed by the architectural and engineering firm of J. Edwin Kopf and John A. Deery in 1926 for the Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners. Shortridge was built between 1927 and 1928, and was occupied in December of 1928. The principal entrance faces west on North Meridian Street. The site is bounded by East 34th Street on the south, North Pennsylvania Street on the east, and a service drive, including the athletic field on the north. Much of the original landscaping, oak and pine trees, survives, including the sunken entrance court on the west. The principal interior spaces are classrooms, a library, gymnasium and the distinguished Caleb Mills Auditorium.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

At the time of construction, according to Mr. Kopf and Mr. Deery, "There probably was no school ever designed with such an abundance of valuable information as was available before the blueprints were made." Each department head was consulted and his rough sketched plans were considered before any attempt was made to draw plans for the entire building. Other considerations were the limited area of the new building site (current adjacent athletic field was acquired at a later time) and a state law which restricted schools to no more than three stories.

In the early 1900's, large school buildings were usually designed with a main entrance facade in the center of the longitudinal elevations with secondary entrances placed in the end elevations. The administrative offices, auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria were grouped around the central entrance with classrooms in the wings at either side of the central group. The Shortridge building was a sharp departure.

Kopf's design resulted in a hollow rectangle, containing 337,167 square feet of floor space. The four sides of the rectangle enclose a 108 feet by 167 feet open courtyard, which allows natural lighting for interior rooms. The Shortridge building consists of three autonomous units - auditorium, gymnasium and classrooms. The auditorium and gym have formal public entrances from the street as well as from school corridors. Four separate student entrances on the north and south sides of the building open directly into the classroom corridors. (Photo 2) The main entrance to the school from Meridian Street leads through a foyer to the administrative offices directly across the hall. All units function for their special uses independently or cooperatively as needed.

A well thought out design is evident throughout the building. Cork floors in the four study halls lessened noise. The library, accommodating 200 pupils, was placed on the west corridor of the second floor, near study halls. Five extra large windows front on Meridian Street for maximum natural light. An intellectual atmosphere was achieved from the many books, the beamed ceiling, scribed walls, plaster mouldings and electric sconces. The height was expanded beyond classroom dimensions to allow for stacks. Consequently, the third floor classrooms above the library are a few steps up from the corridor. This area has five smaller rooms well suited for foreign language classes. All academic departments were compartmentalized. The music department was located just under the roof so that the sounds couldn't disturb other students. In addition to large rooms for vocal and instrumental groups, it contained six small rooms for individual practice. The art department, located on the third floor, included an art gallery named for Roda Selleck, who taught art at Shortridge for 43 years. Gifts over the years gave Shortridge an unusually impressive collection of paintings and artifacts, including pieces by George Innes, T. C. Steele, Clifton Wheeler, and Waymond Adams. The building included a conservatory
continued

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1927/28

Builder/Architect Kopf and Deery, Architects & Engineers

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Shortridge High School is the lineal descendant of Indianapolis High School, the first free co-educational high school in Indianapolis and one of the first in the country. The traditions and educational ideals have a continuity despite the moves from building to building. The classical design and building concept reflect its cultural past and abundantly provided for a continued future. The care and thoughtfulness of its design was evident in its unusual degree of usefulness. Its particular architectural style and concept for a secondary school cannot be found otherwise in this city nor in surrounding areas.

ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The present Shortridge building was designed by J. Edwin Kopf of the Indianapolis architectural firm of Kopf and Woolling, changed to Kopf and Deery prior to construction of the building. Herbert G. Foltz acted as consulting architect and John A. Deery the on-the-site construction architect.

Kopf was born in 1883 in Milwaukee where he also studied architecture. Working in Washington, D.C. for the Bureau of Public Buildings of the Department of the Interior he was in charge of design and construction of public buildings in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He moved to Indianapolis in 1909 and became well known as an institutional architect. Among his designs are Shortridge, the Carmelite Monastery on Cold Springs Road, Flower Mission Hospital at the Old City Hospital, National Guard armories in six Indiana Cities and several buildings at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. In 1930 when the licensing of architects was instituted by the state, Kopf became one of the first licensed Indiana architects.

Kenneth K. Woolling was born in 1890 in Bluffton, Indiana, but moved to Indianapolis as a young child. He was a Shortridge graduate and formed his partnership with Kopf in 1913. It was Woolling who presented the plans for Shortridge to the School Board and attended to the financial arrangements of the contract. He served on both the Indianapolis and English Foundation boards (1938-1948), and as a member of the board of directors of Butler University (1941-1953). Just prior to the construction of the new Shortridge building, Mr. Woolling left the partnership to join a brokerage firm.

John A. Deery was born in 1888, grew up in Indianapolis, and graduated from Manual Training High School. He started his architectural experience as a draftsman. After World War I he joined the firm of Kopf and Woolling. He was employed as a junior partner during the design of the building becoming a senior partner prior to its construction. He left the firm in 1933.

On April 19, 1921, a committee was appointed by the Shortridge PTA to urge immediate action on a new school. The final contract with Kopf and Woolling was signed March 16, 1925. This contract was rescinded when a newly elected board took office and hired Herbert G. Foltz as architect. A suit filed by a taxpayer on behalf of Kopf and Woolling

continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

Boone, Richard G., History of Education in Indiana, New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1892.
 Wilson, William E., Indiana: A History, Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University, 1977. p.199
 Indianapolis Public Schools, Beginning the Second 100 Years in the Indianapolis Public Schools. Indianapolis, Indiana. 1953.

Continued

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 10.9 acres

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Plat # 75-70-2&3. Range 3 Parcel #10987939. Northeast Meridian and 34th Street-430 feet east line by 594.5 south line. S 24 T 16. Parcel # 1073618. 635.88 feet

Continued

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Helene Arehart, Aaron Perry, Lynn Molzan

organization C.I.T.Y. (Coalition Indianapolis Taskgroups date April 25, 1983
for Youth)

street & number 3916 Washington Blvd. telephone 317-283-2019; 929-8792 (work)

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46205

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James M. Anderson 7-21-83

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda R. O'Connell

date 9-15-83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

adjacent to biology classrooms, (Photo 3) a basement armory, a clinic for eye and dental work or first aid and emergency operations, and two wards containing four beds. In 1965 an industrial arts addition was constructed on the east facade.

The auditorium, named Caleb Mills Hall to honor the early educator, seats 1800 with facilities for full theatrical performances. Its three-story dressing rooms flank the stage, and provide peep holes for anxious performers. The gymnasium seats 2400 and was designed as two full-sized gyms in one, one side for girls and one side for boys. The two sides are separated by sliding doors to be opened for interschool games. Each side has locker room facilities with 18 individual marble-tiled showers. (Photo 4)

Shortridge was built to house 3200 students, with a maximum capacity of 4000. The heating plant produced a rapid air changing ventilation system. Practically all building materials are Indiana products. The limestone came from the Bloomington Limestone Company.

When the Shortridge building was completed, the hollow rectangular design concept and its integration of three separate buildings into one was to become known nationally as the "Shortridge Plan". Some earlier schools in Oklahoma and Illinois have slight similarities in the use of light wells or three-sided inner courts or autonomous facilities. One school (Du Sable, Chicago, Illinois) built in 1935 comes closest to the Shortridge Plan. While it utilizes a hollow rectangle, only the auditorium facility is separate from the total design.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Shortridge's classic revival style was strictly adhered to throughout. The front or west facade is on Meridian Street, the tree-lined "main street" of Indianapolis. The three-story facade is rich in Renaissance motifs. It is approached across a sunken, formal garden defined by stone knee walls, balustrades, sentry light fixtures, and paving in the Palladio style. (Photo 5 and 6) The five-bay limestone entry porch is articulated with six twenty-five feet high monolithic columns of Corinthian design supporting a seven feet high frieze, carved with the "Shortridge High School" inscription, and a dentilled parapet topped with six feet high acorn finials above each column. (Photo 7) The third story above the porch also is stone, with its own balustrade above a second parapet and frieze emblazoned with the titles of various academic pursuits - Painting, Sculpture, Music, Poetry, Drama, Education, Culture, Commerce, Industry, Philosophy and Ethics. The first story porch windows are crested at mid-lintel with carved stone logotypes.

The main mass of the building is clad in a brick flemish bond, with stone quoined corners. The veneer is embellished frequently with projecting soldiered bond courses, stone foundations, mouldings, sills and grid bond spandrels. The building form thrusts westward with north and south wings embracing the main entry facade, stone porch and sunken garden. The intricate brick detailing occurs throughout the building. (See photos 3, 14.)

The Meridian Street facades of the brick wings are detailed with a Renaissance criss-cross diagonal brick pattern at the third story. The first two stories frame fourteen feet high cast concrete bas reliefs of human forms crested with logotypes and three feet square bas reliefs of entwined books. The north wall bas relief contains five allegorical figures: A larger winged female with sword and olive branch in hand, and four smaller figures- a male with a hammer and cog wheel, a female with

continued

a winged wheel and steam engine, a female with a lighted lamp and hourglass and a male pointing to a page of classical text. The initials of the sculptor **SD** (Robert William Davidson, a Shortridge graduate) and the date 29 are carved in the lower right corner. (Photo 8) The balancing south wall bas relief again consists of five allegorical figures featuring a larger male figure holding an open book. The flight of steps to his right leads to the future, the broken stones and columns to his left represent the remains of the historic past. Four smaller figures are a male writing with a quill pen, a female holding comic and tragic masks, a female playing a violin, and a male holding a brush and palette. The sculptor's name **Davidson 1929** are carved in the lower right corner. (Photo 9) It seems logical to assume the figures represent the academic pursuits named on the entrance frieze.

The central court featured a botanical garden environment with many of the plant life species indigenous to Indiana, providing a rich learning experience for city students. (Photo 10)

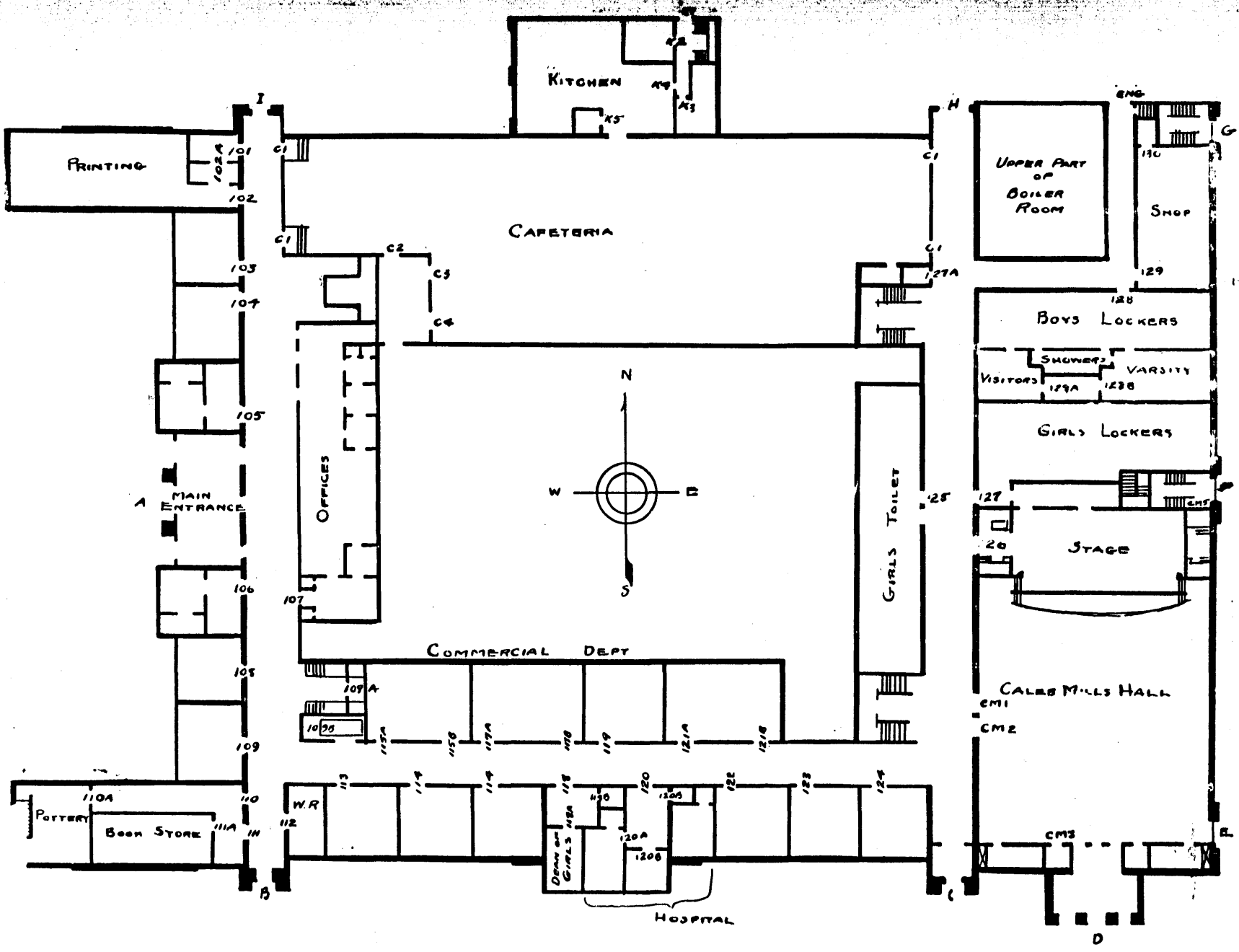
The interior of the Shortridge building exhibits many details consistent with the classic revival style. The generous vestibule is a Renaissance hall with a deep beamed ceiling and ornate plaster mouldings. Its marble floor, classic grilles and glazed chandeliers are consistent with the general exterior. (Photo 11) The corridor ceilings are coffered with transverse beams and embellished with plaster beam bearing brackets in *sima recta sima reversa* scroll forms. (Photo 12 and 13) Oak doorways and portals are transomed and selectively headered with classic dentil and mould copings. Plaster walls are scribed in stone block proportions and support numerous large bas reliefs of equestrian and heroic figures.

On the first level, Caleb Mills Hall, the theater structure, is noteworthy in its own right as an architectural landmark. This facility too is true to the Renaissance style, from its entry to its interior. The entry porch (south facade) is replete with the same classic forms and detailing found on the west entry facade. These include four Corinthianesque pilasters, a dentilled frieze, coping, acorn finials and crested lintels, as displayed against a quoined and diagonal bonded brick mass. (Photo 14 and 15) The entry porch is framed with eight feet high bronze classic sentry light fixtures. (Photo 16) The Caleb Mills Hall interior is a complete Renaissance hall, with dark hardwood portals, full panelled walls with grid moulding, bronze rosettes in the head mould, and classic grilles. The ceiling is a grid coffer ornamented with twelve lamped pendant chandeliers, following the design of the entry light fixtures. (Photo 17,18,19, 20, and 21) The rectangular proscenium is a simple classic style with a dentilled frieze carved with a quote of Caleb Mills: "A disciplined mind and cultivated heart are elements of power." (Photo 22)

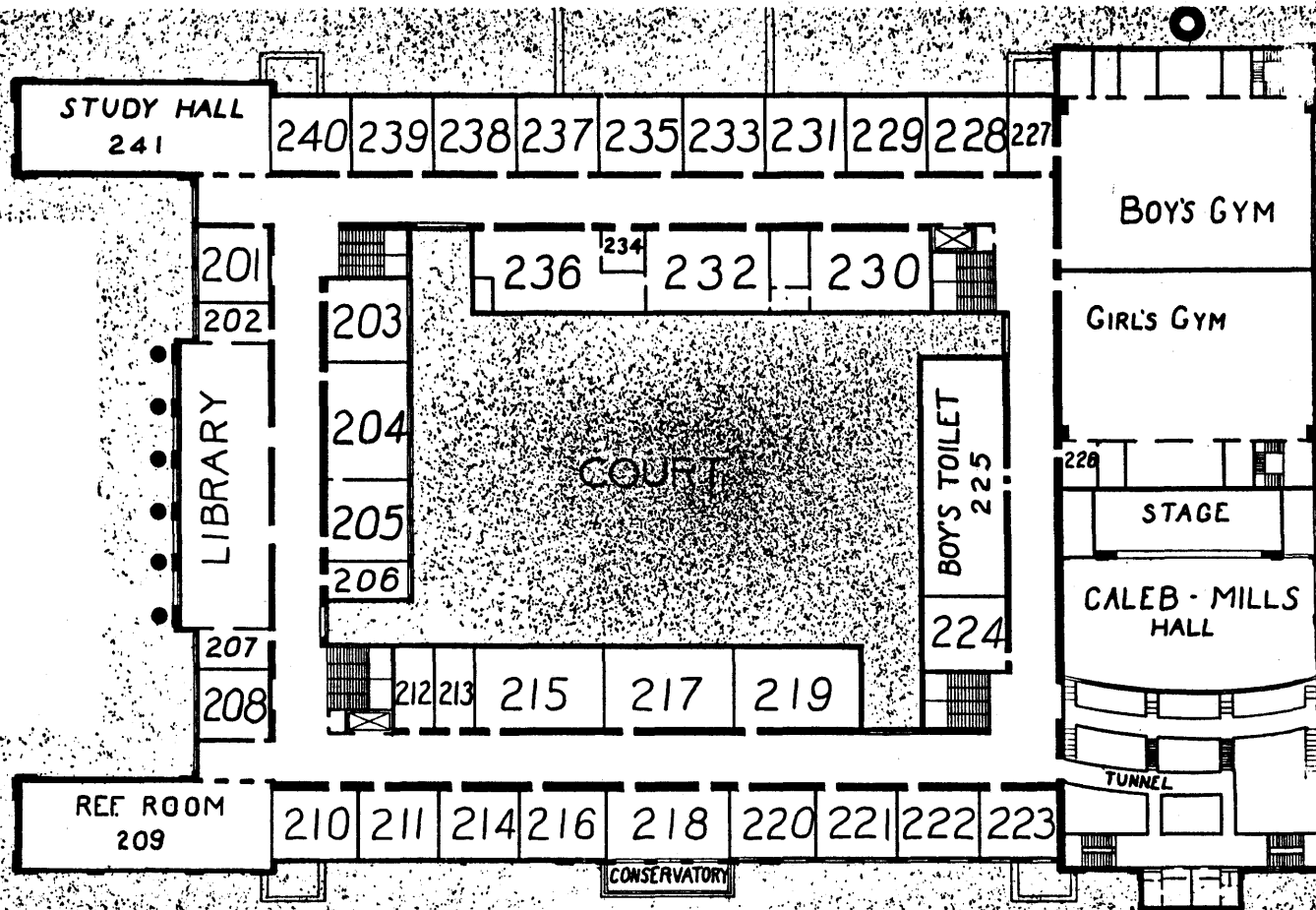
The second level Charity Dye Library is another treasure chest of architectural detailing, with dentilled entablatures, scribed plaster, and marble floors. (Photo 23 and 24)

The third level art gallery corridor is particularly rich in Renaissance motifs, with a coffered ceiling, beams and horizontal brackets, scribed walls, sculptured plaster portal heads, oak wainscoting and mouldings, recessed eight-lighted oak doors and multi-colored patterned terrazzo floors and coves. (Photo 25 and 26)

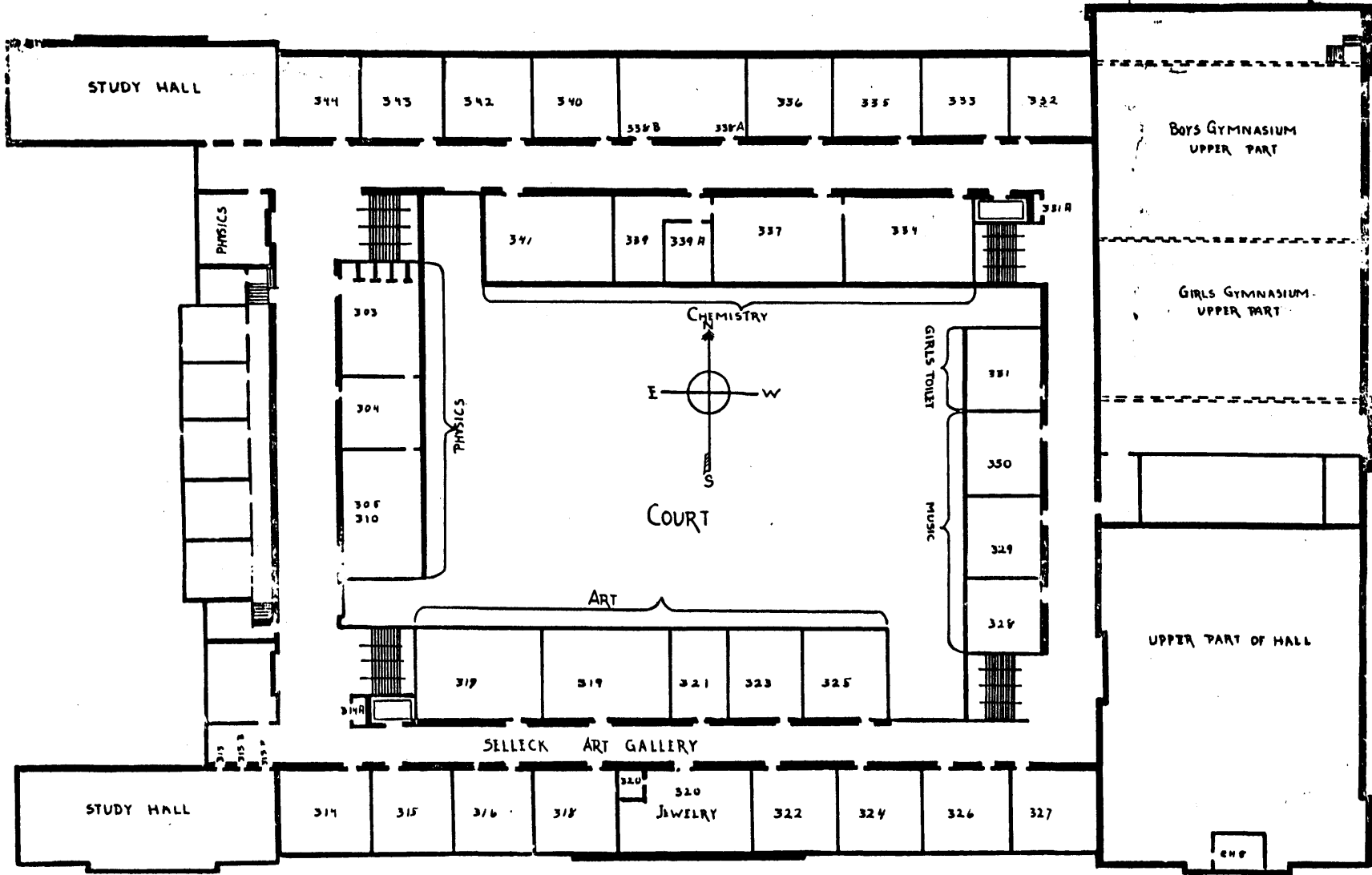
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN



resulted in the compromise whereby Kopf and Woolling were the primary architects and Mr. Foltz was the consulting architect. The land on which Shortridge was built belonged to Indianapolis Public Schools for some time and a complete survey of the site was ordered that same week. The school board and architects met initially March 23, 1925. Final plans were submitted and passed in November and December of 1926. By September of 1927, the structural steel, cement work and the two entrances facing 34th Street had been completed. The cornerstone was laid November 3, 1927. Equipment was moved into the building in November 1928 and the first classes held in the building on December 3, 1928.

When the contract was signed in 1925 the estimated cost was placed at \$1,500,000. The architects were to receive $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the contractors' estimate from which \$10,000 was to be paid to Mr. Foltz. An additional $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ was paid to Deery for construction supervision, making the architectural fee 5% . When preliminary plans were presented on June 22, 1925, the estimated cost was placed at \$1,425,000, exclusive of architectural fees. The limit under the building program of the board was \$1,200,000. The plans were given to school officials to see if changes could be made which would save \$300,000 and the state tax board was approached to allow an increase of the limit. When completed, Shortridge was the world's largest public school under one roof. The final cost was \$1,225,000.

Considered by educators to be one of the outstanding high schools in America, Shortridge utilized classical architecture in its design. The front entrance has a statuary court overlooking a formal sunken garden. Its center colonnade includes six Corinthian columns reminiscent of the Athenian "Temple of the Winds." The building became an impressive and harmonious addition to the Meridian Street Corridor.

EDUCATION, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

As early as 1846-47 the Indiana General Assembly passed the first charter of the town of Indianapolis which provided for the organization of a system of common schools. Professor Caleb Mills, one of the founders of Wabash College, worked tirelessly with Robert Dale Owen to create a statewide system of free public schools.

The first free high school in Indianapolis, called Central High School, was located from 1853-58 in the old county Seminary building in University Square. The Indiana Supreme Court closed all public schools in 1858, declaring it was unconstitutional for cities and towns to collect taxes for school tuition. But the political attitudes changed rapidly and Indianapolis public grade schools reopened in 1860. Due to the efforts of Abram C. Shortridge, the high school was reestablished in 1864 and named Indianapolis High School.

Professor Shortridge, born and educated in Indiana, came to Indianapolis in 1861 to serve as principal of the preparatory department of Northwestern Christian University, now Butler University. He was superintendent of Indianapolis public schools from 1863 to 1874, then became Purdue University's second president. Other significant accomplishments include establishing the Indianapolis Normal School in 1867 and the integration of the schools in 1872. In 1869 the Indiana General Assembly passed an amendment granting black children public education. Separate but equal elementary schools were maintained and in 1872 the first black students were ready for high school. A group of black ministers, led by Rev. Moses Broyles, sought the educators advice on gaining secondary education for these children. The law was against them but Professor Shortridge asked them to send their brightest student to him on the

continued

Shortridge High School
Indianapolis, Indiana

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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opening day of school. Mary Alice Rann presented herself to the superintendent who took her to George P. Brown, then principal of Indianapolis High School. He found her ready for high school, she was admitted to the school and graduated four years later. Thereafter, black students were admitted without question.

Twenty-eight students formed the nucleus of Indianapolis High School at the start. The first class began September 1, 1864 in the Ward Building No. 1 at the corner of New Jersey and Vermont Streets. Not one student was found ready for high school study. The first year was spent preparing them, so the first class was not graduated until 1869.

In 1867 the school moved to the old Presbyterian Church, made famous by Henry Ward Beecher, on the northwest corner of Market Street and the Circle, and outgrew that building by 1872. The Baptist Female Seminary at the corner of Michigan and Pennsylvania, purchased for \$41,000, was used until 1884 when a new building was constructed on the site.

The permanent location of the school "so far north" was inconvenient to the south side and High School No. 2 was opened in 1884 in Ward Building No. 8 on Virginia Avenue. It was intended that this school would give two or three years of high school work and that students would transfer to Indianapolis High School for graduation. During the late 1880's "manual training" courses became popular and mechanical drawing and wood-working were offered at Indianapolis High School in 1888. However, the crowded conditions in the high school, the need for a new building on the south side and this educational innovation prompted the establishment of a new institution. The new school, intended to offer manual training was opened in February, 1895, as Manual Training High School. Indianapolis schools then provided the student the choice of a manual training curriculum or the classical curriculum of Indianapolis High School.

Since Indianapolis High School was no longer the only high school in the city, it was decided to change its name and at the same time honor Abram Shortridge. After 1897 the school originally known as Indianapolis High School became Shortridge High School.

Additions to the Michigan and Pennsylvania Streets site were built in 1901 and 1904. An auditorium, named for Caleb Mills was a part of the 1904 addition. The name, Caleb Mills Hall, has been equally familiar to students at 34th Street, along with his doctrine printed above the stage: "A disciplined mind and a cultivated heart are elements of power."

By 1920 the old Shortridge Building was becoming overcrowded and the school found itself amidst trade and industrial buildings and garages. The majority of students attending Shortridge lived north of 16th Street and it was felt a new school further north would better accommodate the population expansion into that area. The high school occupied the corner of Michigan and Pennsylvania Streets for more than 50 years until moving to the "new" building at 34th and Meridian Streets in 1928.

From its inception in 1864 the school established high academic standards. Some of the original classes listed were Greek, Latin, Physiology, Natural Philosophy, and Meteorology. Later offerings included English History, International Relations, Psychology, Zoology, Caesar, Cicero, Virgil, Homer, Commercial Law, Trigonometry, and Physics III-Electricity. In 1868 there were 22 courses offered and by 1933 the school

was offering 143 courses. In 1966 the Shortridge library was the largest high school library in the state having 36,000 volumes; the Indiana history collection was rated as good or better than those in university libraries. National Honor Society was chartered at the school in 1922, the 23rd charter in the nation. In 1954 Shortridge was the only high school in the city and one of only 47 in the nation to offer college level courses accepted for credit at twelve colleges and universities, including Brown, MIT, and Williams. Wall Street Journal ranked the school among the nation's top 20 high schools. Time and Newsweek both ranked the school among the top 38 in the country. Through the years the high academic standards have been reflected by the awards and recognition given its students. Shortridge consistently had the highest percentage in the city of students going to college (66% in 1980). National Merit finalists, letters of commendation and scholarships have been awarded. The school has a sustained record of "first" and "only" achievements. The Shortridge Senate, a club for pupils interested in governmental functions, organized in 1887, was the oldest high school club in the city. The high school newspaper, The Echo, issued on September 27, 1898, was the first daily to be published by any high school in the world and was one of only three such papers to exist. In 1970, the paper became a weekly and was the only weekly among Indianapolis schools. Shortridge was the only school within the public schools to operate a radio station, WIAN, on the site. During the second World War, Shortridge was the top high school in the nation in its war bond drive. Students raised \$1,302,224, enough to purchase two B-17 Flying Fortresses, which were respectfully named The Blue Devils. Other achievements include the first high school boys' choir in the state, the formation of the inter-school league or association, which was the forerunner to the Indiana High School Athletic Association and the development of the city and state high school Oratorical Association.

To Shortridge supporters Shortridge has always been more than just a building, in part because of its origin as the first co-educational high school in Indianapolis and one of the first such schools in the country. There was always a sense of history, even as it changed locations. Among its illustrious alumni are Admiral Raymond Spruance, Beurt Ser Vaas, Kurt Vonnegut, Dan Wakefield, Honor Moore, Senator Richard G. Lugar, and Representative Andrew Jacobs, Jr. Shortridge has had so many distinguished alumni over its long history in all fields--business, medicine, law, literature, government--that to name 100 would be to overlook an equally distinguished number. As the only high school in the city for its first thirty years, it is not surprising that many members of Indianapolis leadership families have had academic and emotional ties to the school.

Shortridge was threatened with closure in the mid-60's, in 1970, 1973, and again in 1974 and 1977. Each time, until 1980, Shortridge supporters were able to persuade school boards to try various alternatives. Shortridge went from comprehensive to academic, back to comprehensive, then innovative and back to comprehensive until 1978 when the Performing Arts magnet school was established within the school. The specialized curriculum included drama, radio and television, music, visual arts, dance and writing.

In the 1980-1981 school year the IPS Board faced its need to close a number of schools because of a declining school population and financial pressures. The Board appointed a citizens task force to study facilities. Concerning high schools, the Task Force recommended pairing Shortridge and Broad Ripple at the Shortridge site starting September, 1981. The Board, however, voted to combine Shortridge and Broad Ripple at

Shortridge High School
Indianapolis, Indiana

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 9 of 11

the Broad Ripple site. The major historical papers have gone to the Indiana Historical Society. Artifacts and paintings have gone to museums. Some books and artifacts have gone to Broad Ripple, along with Echo equipment and the School of Performing Arts. The Shortridge building is now scheduled to be reopened in the Fall of 1984 as a junior high school.

Since 1928 the Shortridge High School building has been a familiar and handsome landmark on 34th Street between Meridian and Pennsylvania Streets in Indianapolis, Indiana. In full operation as a comprehensive school until August of 1981, it was always, without being so defined, a living historical monument, the depository of accumulated culture and tradition associated with 117 continuous years as a distinguished high school. The building sensitively captures these attributes within its design.

When Shortridge was closed in 1981 many Indianapolis citizens felt a loss of identity. Kurt Vonnegut said at the time it was like "closing Oxford."

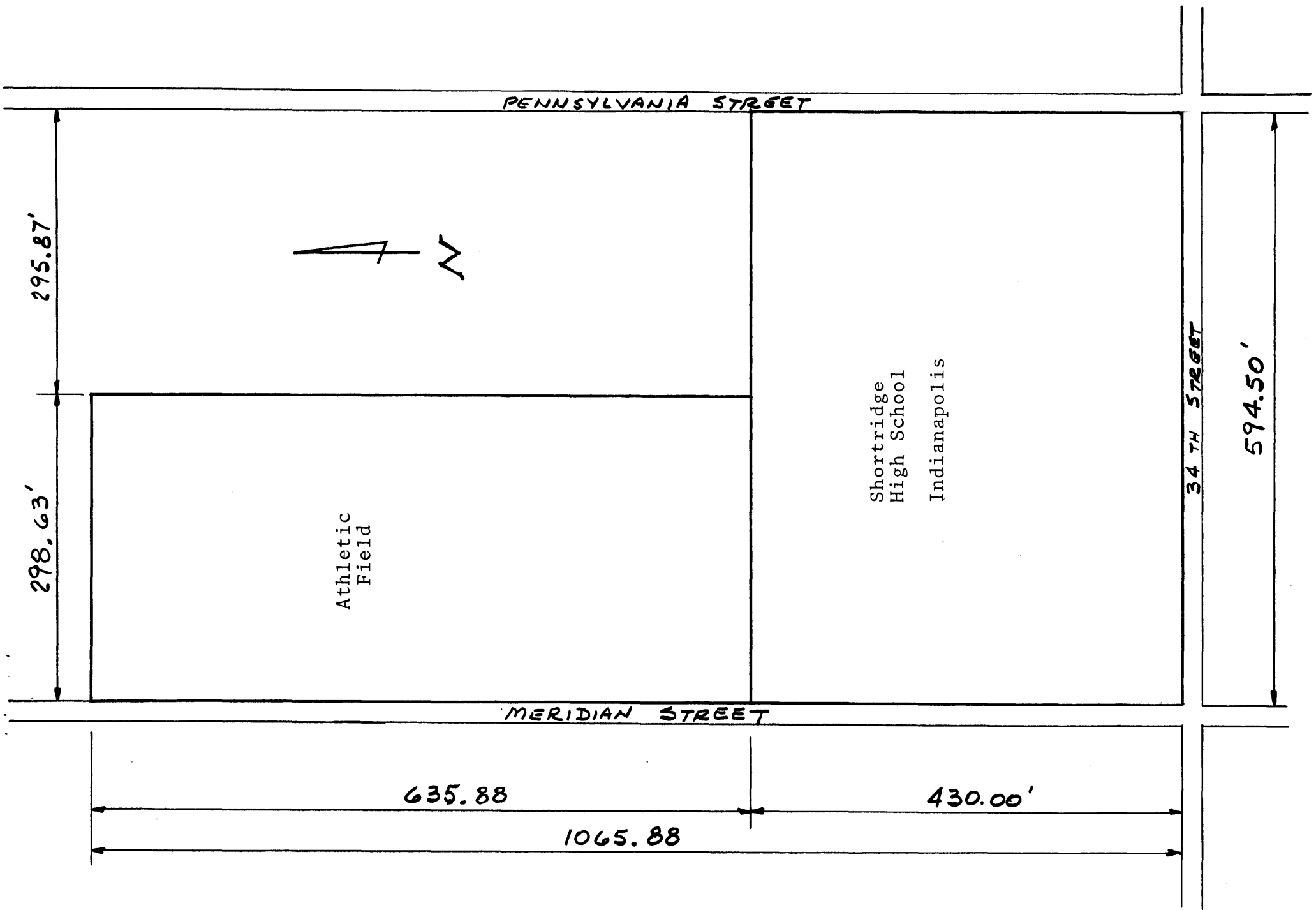
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Shortridge High School
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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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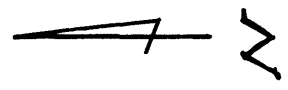
east side Meridian Street x 298.63 feet beginning 430 feet North of line 34th Street
PT E 1/2 S W 1-4 NW 1-4 SEC 24-16-3.



PENNSYLVANIA STREET

MERIDIAN STREET

34 TH STREET



Athletic
Field

Shortridge
High School
Indianapolis

635.88

430.00'

1065.88

295.87'

298.63'

594.50'