

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

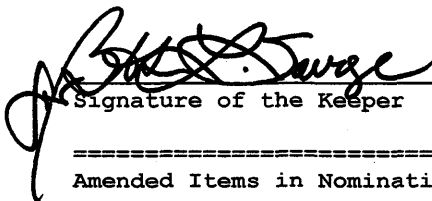
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000254 Date Listed: 03/22/02

Fairmont Senior High School Marion WV
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

3/22/02
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

5. Classification: Ownership

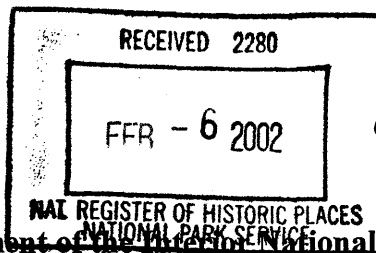
The school is owned by the county; "private," which was entered inadvertently, has been deleted.

This information has been confirmed with the WVSHPO staff by telephone.

=====
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

OK



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name FAIRMONT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
other name/site number: _____

254

2. Location

street & number: 1 Loop Park not for publication: N/A
city/town: Fairmont vicinity: N/A
state: West Virginia code: WV county: Marion code: 049 zip code: 26554

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 ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Perce 2/4/02
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action



- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- removed from the National Register

[Handwritten Signature] 3/22/02

other (explain): _____

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	4	buildings
		sites
2		structures
2	1	objects
5	5	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Fairmont Senior High School
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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

EDUCATION: School

EDUCATION: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Foundation: Stone
Walls: Brick
Roof: Asphalt Shingles
Other: _____

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheets.)

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.

Name of Property

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1928 - 1952

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ittner, William B, architect

Smallwood Low Stone Company, stonework

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of Repository: Fairmont Senior High School

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: 11.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

QUAD MAP: Fairmont East

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>17</u>	<u>572550</u>	<u>4370160</u>	C	<u>17</u>	<u>572598 4369860</u>
B	<u>17</u>	<u>572680</u>	<u>4370000</u>	D	<u>17</u>	<u>572180 4370040</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

Map by the Monongahela Power & Railway Company is being used as the verbal boundary description.

Boundary Justification

The map outlines the property associated with Fairmont Senior High School.

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title Katherine Jourdan, WV SHPO with Carol Amos, Teacher Fairmont Senior High School

Organization: WV State Historic Preservation Office Date: December 2001

Street & Number: The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd E. Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25305-0300

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Marion County Board of Education

Street & Number 200 Gaston Avenue Telephone: 304/267-2100

City or Town: Fairmont State: WV Zip: 26554

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Fairmont Senior High School lies to the northwest of downtown Fairmont in a residential neighborhood. The 11.5 acre campus is bordered by Oakwood Road on the NE, private property in the SE and Loop Park (also called Back Drive) on the SW, which connects to Park Drive on the NW end of the campus making the lot roughly foot shaped.

The main school building stands high on a terrace with the front walk leading down to a small stream, which divides the partially wooded campus. Also on the property are a modern cafeteria, gym and two portable classrooms with a paved parking lot off Loop Park. Besides the main building there are two contributing structures – a small single arch concrete bridge; a stone wall running for approximately 100 feet along the Back Drive, and two brick gate posts which are contributing objects.

MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING AND ANNEX 1928 One Contributing Building

The Colonial Revival brick building is 2 ½ stories with a full lower level. The building was designed by architect William B. Ittner, of St. Louis, Missouri. The front section, or East Façade, has three units with the center unit projecting out. To the left (SE) is a projecting wing for the auditorium while to the right (NW) is a gymnasium. On this same side is a covered brick walkway or arcade leading to a separate two-story building called the Annex, which currently holds a television studio and offices. The walkway has three round arch openings with stone keystone and metal rail between the openings. The lower level of the walkway is ashlar stone, as is the lower level of the building. The stone was quarried from River Road by the Smallwood-Low Stone Company. The walkway also has an interior stairwell. The entire building has a gable asphalt shingle roof, which is dominated on the front by two center paired chimneys on the end of the center unit and a single chimney at each end of the front section.

The front section is symmetrical and again is in three units. The main entrance is in the middle of the center unit and is reached by a divided stair with two concrete flights on each side. On the ground level is a stone plaque below the front doors set in a stone ashlar wall. The plaque has decorative stonework of oak leaves in a vertical line to each side with the center inscription reading: "FAIRMONT/HIGH SCHOOL/KNOWLEDGE IS THE GREAT SUN IN/THE FIRMAMENT – LIFE AND POWER ARE/SCATTERED WITH ALL ITS BEAMS." The words are an abridged version of a famous quote spoken by Daniel Webster in 1825 at the dedication of the Bunker Hill Monument cornerstone.

The main doorway has paired doors with upper four lights and topped by a fanlight transom. The doorway has a stone surround with flanking stone Ionic columns supporting a heavy entablature with dentil course and frieze with swags. A small carved head is over the transom. The center unit has seven bays with the first floor windows having brick voussoirs, and 12/12 double-hung sashes. The second floor has five center segmental arch windows with triple-hung sash and a stone keystone in the brick voussoir. There is a small metal balcony outside each

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window. At each end on the second floor is a single 9/9 double-hung sash window with first floor lintel with swag design.

The two end units of the front section are symmetrical with three single 12/12 double-hung windows in three sets on the first and second floor. The lower level has six paired windows. A stone watertable marks the top line of the lower level. The gable ends of the two end units have half arch openings in the attic level and two single openings on the lower level.

The northeast side has the auditorium wing with a stairwell door on the lower level at the end of the front section. Over the door is inscribed in stone "AND GOD SAID LET THERE BE LIGHT/AND THERE WAS LIGHT." The entrance has paired metal doors with a stone surround and broken pediment. There is also an outside stairwell set into the hillside against the auditorium wall. The auditorium wing has flat windows on the lower level and three short windows on the first floor with three tall round arch multi-light windows set in the side wall. A stringcourse marks the top of the second floor with three bullseye windows in the attic. The roof of this wing appears flat but may be angled behind a short parapet wall.

The rear of the building is directly off the Back Drive. There are multiple windows with 12/12 double-hung sash and brick voussoirs. Two entrance doors are on this facade with the inscriptions – "ACHIEVEMENT/LIVE IN DEEDS – NOT WORDS" and "OPPORTUNITY/ACT IN THE LIVING PRESENT." At the breaks or corners of the building facade are brick quoins. There is a low stone watertable almost at ground level. The stringcourse continues above the second floor level. A small one-story new addition is on the southwest corner. This was added as a Green Room in 1987 and blends with the building. The gym is on the rear northwest corner and has segmental arch openings with two operating windows in each opening having 9/9/9 triple-hung sashes. The openings also have brick voussoirs with center stone keystone.

Interior:

The interior of the school still expresses the original character of the building. The building was designed to be fireproof with interior concrete construction. The corridor floors and bathrooms are terrazzo. The classroom floors on the first and second floor and gymnasium have maple wood floors on concrete. The lower floor has tile on concrete. The interior doors are wood and the exterior doors are steel. The walls of the building are plaster with wood trim. A unique feature are the eight water fountains in the building which have a backsplash tile of varying scenes – i.e., sailboats and landscapes. At this time it has not been documented, but the tiles may be Mercer tiles. The architect's original design had a central ventilating system to provide fresh air to the building. The end chimneys on the exterior acted as ventilators.

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The main central door leads to a stairway with wooden trim and original lighting fixtures. There is a large plaster statue of Abraham Lincoln at the top of the stairs from the Class of 1929, and two wall casts. Also lining the wall are bronze plaques and photos of past principals. On the long first floor corridor are two built-in trophy cases. Three French doors face the central brick courtyard called the Senior Court with a center wall sheltering a large vent. There are original bronze lights encircling the court and the glass and metal greenhouse is placed against the rear wall. The second floor corridors have skylights. The lockers lining the halls date to 1989-90.

The building was designed with thirty-three classrooms, cafeteria, auditorium and library. The majority of the classrooms are intact although some of the blackboards have been removed or covered, especially in the computer labs (to remove chalk dust). On the first floor was an administration room, which had a formal reception area with wood fireplace and tiles. This room has new inner partition walls but the space is intact. On the second floor, on the center front of the building, is the library. It is the library windows that are arched and have the metal balconies on the exterior. The library is paneled in oak and has oak wood trim. The auditorium has a sloped floor to the stage. The auditorium was originally furnished with 1107 comfortable Bentwood opera chairs. The facility now holds 976 after four rows were removed to add a stage extension. The original wood seats have taken much battering and plans call for their reconditioning, retaining the wooden back and metal parts. The balcony, arched proscenium, dentils and circular lights with decorative garlands and florettes do remain.

The building did suffer a major fire in 1979 which heavily damaged the roof. The reinforced concrete ceiling on the second floor helped prevent more damage. Part of the original ventilating system was sealed to prevent potential future fires from spreading in the building. Power and phone lines are delivered into the building through an underground conduit from Oakwood Road into a vault in which the transformer is located. From this underground vault the lines are distributed throughout the building. This provision makes it unnecessary to have power lines outside the building to support heavy electric transformers. Only recently have overhead lines been added on the campus (i.e., fiber optic lines to Freshman Building.) Other alterations include the removal of deteriorated original copper downspouts, abatement for mine subsidence, and window air conditioning units for summer school classes.

Annex Building- Built in 1928 with the main building, the two-story Annex is roughly square with ashlar stone on the lower level and brick on the first floor. Windows vary again, with 9/9 double-hung sash on the lower level and 9/9 with 6 light inner awning openings and stone lintels. A few have been bricked in. On the second floor the windows are primarily 8/12/12 triple-hung sash openings. The roof appears to be flat. Metal double doors on the top floor access the band room off the Back Drive.

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Polar Bear Buildings 1969 Two Noncontributing Buildings

Located on the SE end of campus, the two building were constructed as temporary structures to alleviate overcrowding. The prefabricated metal buildings are from Panelfab, Inc. of North Miami, FL. The four interior classrooms have concrete slabs and a metal gable roof.

Freshman Building 1963 One Noncontributing Building

Located on the east end of campus along Park Drive, the building has ten classrooms. The exterior walls are buff colored brick and interior walls are painted concrete block. The one-story structure has a flat roof with rubber roofing and metal trusses. There are aluminum awning windows and steel doors.

Gym B 1993 One Noncontributing Building

Constructed of steel and masonry construction on concrete slabs, the building has a rubber roof on metal trusses. There is a standard gym floor. Offices are on the south wall and bleachers are across the north wall. Downstairs is a weight room primarily used for the wrestling team.

School Sign 1971 One Noncontributing Object

Constructed of brick and laid on a concrete slab is a signboard standing approximately four feet in height. Centered in the middle is a stone slab with the inscription: "FAIRMONT SENIOR/HIGH SCHOOL/FOUNDED IN 1876/PRESENTED BY THE CLASS OF 1971." The lettering slowly decreases in size.

Wall on Back Drive 1928 One Contributing structure

The stone wall is approximately five feet in height, and runs approximately 100 feet along Back Drive. There is at least one break in the wall for steps leading to Eighth Street. The stone was quarried by the Smallwood-Low Stone Company from stone on River Road.

Bridge 1928 One Contributing Structure

Single arch concrete bridge with solid rails. Spans a run leading to small fish pond and eventually to Coal Run.

Gateposts 1928 Two Contributing Objects

The two gateposts flank the wall leading from Oakwood Road. They are brick with concrete or stone as the top course. The side next to the walk stands approximately six feet and the slopes away from the walk.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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Summary:

The main school building together with the historic structures and objects on campus, reflect the late 1920s when Colonial Revival architecture was popular. The integrity has been maintained while being used by thousands of students over the years. Growth by the student population has lead to other buildings being constructed on campus, but they do not significantly impact the historic atmosphere of the school.

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Fairmont Senior High School is being nominated under Criterion A for Education and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance begins in 1928, when the school was constructed, and spans to the fifty year date of 1952. The school has been used continually for classes by the students of Fairmont. The building was designed by St. Louis architect William B. Ittner and expresses the popular Colonial Revival period of the late 1920s.

County and Town History:

The first English settlers in the county arrived in the Fairmont area during the 1760s. Jacob Prickett may have been the first, arriving in 1766. Captain James Booth and John Thomas arrived in 1770 or 1772, as did Thomas Helen. David Morgan and Nicholas Woods constructed cabins about five miles south of the present site of Fairmont in 1772. They were soon followed by Peter Straight, William Snodgrass, Henry Button, Thomas Button, John Dragoo and Frederick Ice. Together, they built Prickett's Fort, now reconstructed as a state park and a tourist attraction, for protection against the Indians in 1773 or 1774.

John Fleming and his brother's three sons were the first settlers in what would become Fairmont, the county seat. They arrived from Delaware in 1789. In 1793, Jacob Paulsley built a home on the east side of the Monongahela River in present day Fairmont. At that time, most of the future city was a dense laurel thicket. The area's population remained very low until the construction of a road between Clarksburg and Morgantown in 1819. A halfway resting point was needed along the road. Boaz Fleming's land on the west side of the river was considered no good for cultivating, so the town was started there, and incorporated in 1820 as Middletown. Three ferries and a hotel owned by Frederick Ice were the first businesses in the town. Across the river, a post office was opened and called Paulsley, in honor of John Paulsey. In 1838, Paulsley was incorporated as Palatine. Marion County was created by an act of the Virginia Assembly on January 14, 1842, from parts of Harrison and Monongalia counties. The new county was named in honor of General Francis Marion (1732-1795), the legendary hero of the American Revolutionary War. After first being called Pettyjohn, then Palsley's Mills and then Middletown, the name Fairmont was chosen, a contraction of Fair Mountain. On February 4, 1843, the two towns merged and, by an act of the General Assembly, was renamed as Fairmont.

Fairmont was long known in the state for its saw, grist and woolen mills. The town experienced a growth spurt when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad extended a line to the town on January 22, 1852. On December 15, 1892, West Fairmont, with an area of 201 acres, was incorporated.

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Fairmont continued to develop as a commercial center and county seat. After the arrival of the B&O Railroad in 1852 and improved roads such as the Fairmont and Beverly Pike and the Weston Turnpike, the population swelled. Nearby coal interests helped the economy and Fairmont became a leader in the coke industry for the Northern region of West Virginia. Another natural asset was the Monongahela River and its tributaries which powered more than forty grist and saw mills. Before the year 1900, the discovery of gas and oil made further fortunes.

Education History – Marion County and Fairmont

Education was an early concern in the area with the first log school erected on East Run in 1779. In April 1852, Marion County was divided into seven districts. This was done for the convenience of voters, but later the districts were used for the organization of schools. The districts were named: Fairmont, Union, Grant, Winfield, Paw Paw, Lincoln and Mannington. Secondary training was offered by the Fairmont Academy after 1853, and the Fairmont Male and Female Seminary opened in 1856 under the supervision of Dr. William Ryland White. The seminary met the needs for higher education from 1856 to 1864.

Dr. White occupied a leading place in the educational growth of not only Marion County, but of the entire state. A minister as well as teacher, he was the father of the State Normal School idea and the first principal of Fairmont State Normal School. He was also the first state superintendent of free schools in West Virginia. An act establishing the free school system was passed in December 1863. It was progressive in providing for high schools. Article 10 of the Act stated that high schools were to provide instruction in bookkeeping, algebra, geometry and surveying with other branches in natural science and general literature as the board would determine. The first public school under the free school system opened in the fall of 1864 in Fairmont. There were no buildings, so rooms in different parts of the community were used to house classes.

In 1866, the Fairmont Board of Education purchased a brick building at the corner of Adams and Madison Streets for a school. The following year, the legislature located a Normal School, in Fairmont, which used the public schools as training models for its students. This brought about a close relationship, and in 1872 a building was erected at the corner of Adams and Quincy Street, which was occupied by both the Normal and public school students. The high school graduated its first class in 1877. Thomas Condit Miller was the first principal of the high school from 1877 to 1891. The Normal School moved into a new building on Fairmont Avenue in 1893, and the building on Adams Street became the Second Ward Building. In 1917, the Normal school moved to its present location of Fairmont State College. About 1906, a school building was completed on a knoll at Fifth Street, which served the area until the present Fairmont Senior High School was erected in 1928.

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Built by the Fairmont Independent School District, the subdivision area of West Fairmont, where the school stands, was laid out in 1922 as the Oakwood Addition, Section I, and was formerly part of Watson Company land. The Loop Park section was purchased in 1923 from the Fairmont Improvement Company by the Board of Education. The high school publication *Maple Leaves 1931* states that bonds were used to construct the school with preliminary plans being approved in 1927. Excavation began on January 26, 1928, by the builders D. J. Phipps of Roanoke, Virginia, and the building was completed fourteen months later on April 1, 1929. Cost of the building, lot and landscaping was over \$574,000.

The other high school built by the Fairmont Independent School District was the East Side High School was organized in 1917 across the Monongahela River from downtown. Built by the Fairmont Independent School District, the 71 students and two instructors occupied two basement rooms of what eventually became Central School. In 1921, East Side High opened its doors to a new school with auditorium, gymnasium, domestic science department and six classrooms. Voters passed a bond and built a new East Fairmont High School in 1993, making the previous school on Orion Lane a Junior High School.

Other rural high schools were built by the county Board of Education. Mannington lists students in 1895, Farmington in 1915, Monongah in 1918, Fariview in 1919, and Barrackville in 1924. These five schools were consolidated in 1979 when North Marion High School was constructed. The Dunbar School built c. 1927 was used as a high school for the African-American community.

Architect - William Butts Ittner

Fairmont Senior High School was designed by architect William B. Ittner. His Colonial Revival styled school building was of fireproof construction, with concrete floors. The building was designed for 900 students and housed thirty-three classroom units, as well as a cafeteria, auditorium and library.

William B. Ittner got his architectural start with his father's bricklaying and construction company. Vestiges of that inherited craft remain in some of his St. Louis work especially the Patrick Henry School and in the brick flats at 2137-39 California. Ittner had an elegant and economical imagination; even in a form as unimposing and easy as the New Federal Building at 1520 Market, or as exotic as the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Ittner's command of lines, his ornamental restraint, his sense of what to leave out, is unailing. He was widely known for his development of the "open-type plan" in school buildings with well-lit corridors and classrooms and planned 430 buildings in twenty-eight states, the majority of which were high school and college buildings. He served as president of the Architectural League of America 1903-04, and at the time of his death was president of the St. Louis Plaza Commission, fellow and life member of the American Institute of Architects, and a thirty-third degree Mason.

In a 1997 interview with Jeanette Finnegan for *The East High School Tom-Tom* of Erie, Pennsylvania (Volume 63, Number 2), Curtis Ittner explains of his grandfather that William B. Ittner designed over 500 schools in 29 different states throughout the United States, 60 in

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St. Louis, his hometown. Most of William Ittner's schools still exist and are being used, including the 60 in the St. Louis area. Curtis Ittner said that William Ittner was known as "The Father of Modern School Architecture." He had many new ideas. He pioneered the "panic device," the bar on all of the exit doors that can be pushed to open the door instead of having a door knob to turn which can be difficult in emergency situations. Curtis Ittner continued by saying that William B. Ittner believed in making the school environment safer and healthier. He made sure that all classrooms had windows to provide light and fresh air. He also made sure that the exit doors were equipped with the panic device mentioned previously. He had a special new design for kindergarten classrooms which included fireplaces to provide a more homey atmosphere for little children who were going to school for the first time. That homey aura was not confined to just elementary schools. The Erie, PA East High School noted in the interview that it had two visible fireplaces and at least one that is currently hidden from view. According to Cleota Reed, of Syracuse University, a historian of the Arts and Crafts movement and world-renowned expert on American tile, in the Fall 1982 *Journal of Erie Studies* five Erie schools were designed by William B. Ittner, Columbus (1915), Gridley (1915), Lincoln (1917), East High School (1919), and Academy (1920). Reed says, "All five are the work of William Butts Ittner (1864-1936) of St. Louis, the single most important figure in the revolution that transformed public school architecture during the first quarter of this century." She further details the tile on mantels and fountain backsplashes as significant arts and crafts style of the time. The original linen blueprints are works of art in detail, drawing, and calligraphy — all signed by "Wm. B. Ittner, F.A.I.A Architect." Visitors comment on the character, class, and beauty of the building created by the architectural genius of William Butts Ittner.

The legacy of William B. Ittner to architecture in America, particularly public schools, is exemplary. The Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. confirms, "...Multiple Property Schools of William B. Ittner in St. Louis listed [on the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]] which is really only the beginning, as well as many Ittner schools within the boundaries of historic districts."

An official at the Ittner Architects, Inc. confirms the listing of Rock Spring -1899; Elliot - 1898; Field - 1901; Jackson - 1899; Horace Mann - 1902; Ralph Waldo Emerson -1902, and Edward Wyman 1901. Indeed, the NRHP database lists Edina Double Square Historic District, Central Webster Historic District, and University City Education District in Missouri as remarkable testimony to his accomplishments. St. Louis schools listed individually include Lincoln, Carr (St. Louis Public Schools of William B. Ittner MPS AD), Marshall, Simmons Colored School, Charles Sumner, Eliot, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Eugene Field School. In Indiana: Central High School & Boys Vocational School in St. Joseph County, Ralph Waldo Emerson School in Lake County, and Shelbyville High School in Shelby County were listed in 1985, 1995, and 1996 respectively. Georgia listed in 1980 the Decatur County Courthouse and the Sixteenth Street School in Muscogee County. North Carolina and Florida each show a listing: Iredell County Courthouse in Iredell County, NC and Central High School in Pinellas

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County Florida. Central School in Franklin County, Ohio in 1985 joined Hume-Fogg High School in Davidson County Tennessee and Park City Junior High School in Know County Tennessee on the prestigious register in 1974 and 1983. The Robert Alexander Long High School in Cowlitz County, WA was acknowledged nationally in 1985. The District of Columbia proudly claims Francis L. Cardozo Senior High School as listed since 1993.

Although primarily noted for school design, Ittner created other types of structures, several of which are listed. The St. Louis Colored Orphans Home in Missouri (The Ville, multiple listing), Missouri State Teachers Association in Boone County and Odd Fellows Home District in Clay County Missouri, as well as Principia Page-Park YMCA Gymnasium in St. Louis Missouri.

As a national leader in designing school buildings St. Louis architect William B. Ittner combined ideas from other fields to create a new type of educational facility. He used ideas from urban planning to design interiors with better traffic flow and movement. He designed schools around the functions they needed to serve and the jobs that had to be done, letting the design emanate from them. Today's public school buildings designed by William Ittner, such as Soldan or Mullanphy, remain some of the finest early twentieth century architecture in St. Louis. St. Louis public education holds the legacy of innovation and excellence in teaching, and possesses some of William Ittner's finest architectural work. "A young architect at the start of the century, William Ittner, fundamentally altered the design of schools for St. Louis Public Schools in the early decades, as well as commercial buildings such as the Continental Building near Grand in 1929." Further accolades from other architects given include the Continental as the "Best Skyscraper."

Summary – History and Architecture of Fairmont Senior High School:

In Fairmont, the community considers Fairmont Senior High School a local landmark. Students who have attended the school appreciate the aesthetics of the "Jewel of a School" as it is often called. The design of the school follows Ittner's attention to detail which he used in his other school designs. The Colonial Revival style is typical of many similar large public buildings in the 1920s. There are many features used by the architect which are found in his other schools. Some of these details include the tiled fireplace with mantle in the former Reception Room, as well as the tiled fountain backslashes. The eight water fountains have varying landscape designs in muted tones. Ittner also used skylights to light the second floor hallways and had an interior ventilating system to provide fresh air to all the rooms. (This system has been modified due to modern fire codes.)

Fairmont Senior High School still conveys its original floorplan and use of materials. The building used good quality in its materials and has been well maintained. The campus setting provides a college atmosphere, with students walking to various outbuildings for school classes or functions.

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The commitment to history has also been carried over to the grounds. Many of the 100+ year old oak trees on campus were cut down due to dangerous conditions. A program to replace the trees with historic trees from different sources has been established. Oak trees have been planted from the Walden Woods Project which grows seedlings from Thoreau's beloved Walden Pond. More than 70 other trees such as Trail of Tears redbud, Alex Haley silver maple, Betsy Ross sycamore and Williamsburg wisteria to name only a few of the diverse species have been planted matching recommendations whenever possible made by Ittner in the original blueprints. American Forests sponsors the Famous and Historic Trees project combining contemporary conservation with our nation's heritage. Trees associated with significant people or events in American History are grown from the seeds of those one-of-a-kind trees.

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Name Fairmont Senior High School
Address 1 Loop Park Drive
Town Fairmont WV 26554
County Marion

Photographer: John W. Phillips

Date: July, 2001

Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston WV

- Picture 1 of 26: Front façade of school as seen from Oakwood Road, camera looking SW
- Picture 2 of 26: Front façade from Oakwood Road, camera looking SW
- Picture 3 of 26: Front façade from ornamental gate entrance, camera looking SW
- Picture 4 of 26: Monument on front lawn presented by class of 1971, camera looking SW
- Picture 5 of 26: Relief in stone below front main doors and above concrete bench, camera looking SW
- Picture 6 of 26: Front entrance, new steps poured 1981, camera looking SW
- Picture 7 of 26: NE corner of school building and front facade, camera looking SW
- Picture 8 of 26: Double doors on the right are on the south end of main building and enter into the ground floor, camera facing SW.
- Picture 9 of 26: Detail of entrance doors to ground floor, camera looking W.
- Picture 10 of 26: Exterior stairs to auditorium. To the left is the green room addition , camera looking N.

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- Picture 11 of 26: West side of main building looking north on Loop Park Drive. Showing first and second floor, annex to the far north on drive, and smokestack beyond that. Camera looking W.
- Picture 12 of 26: Stone tabature above door of back entrance to main (first) floor is located on the west side of the building at the north end of Loop Park. Camera looking N.
- Picture 13 of 26: Annex with television studio and connection to Gym A by a covered portico protecting a stairwell to the ground floor and access to the art department. Camera looking N.
- Picture 14 of 26: South on Loop Park Drive depicts the Band Room entrance of double doors below the lighter added brickwork. Camera looking SE.
- Picture 15 of 26: East side of annex showing railing for walkway and stairs to Gym B and Freshman Building. Semi-Palladian windows on top floor of facing main building are the gym over the photography lab, tech ed, and drafting rooms. Structure to right displays east side of the art room on the ground floor and band room above. Camera looking SE.
- Picture 16 of 26: Arches of covered portico between annex and main building; note ventilating awning windows above gym. Camera looking S.
- Picture 17 of 26: Same view as 16 but from distant access stairs to Freshman Building and Gym B. Camera looking S.
- Picture 18 of 26: Corner of building facing portico and annex. Camera looking SW.
- Picture 19 of 26: Details the lower portion on the stairs. Camera looking SW.
- Picture 20 of 26: West façade of main building . Camera looking SE.
- Picture 21 of 26: Same as 20, West façade with detail of gable end, half-circular vents, chimney above and cornice at roof. Camera looking SE.
- Picture 22 of 26: Portico and annex. Camera looking SW

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-
- Picture 23 of 26: Gym B constructed in 1994 situated on Park Drive at the northeast section of the campus. At right is the corner of the Freshman Building as viewed from the stairs. Camera looking W.
- Picture 24 of 26: Interior view of front entrance. Polar bears donated in 1970. Note detail of glass above door and original replication of exterior door cornices in wood over doors, which access principal's office to left and counselor's complex at right. Camera looking N.
- Picture 25 or 26: Statue of Abraham Lincoln donated by the class of 1929, facing the front entrance and silhouetted by the three Palladian windows with double French doors. The senior court, an open-air area with brick surface is in rear; also provides benches, ornamental lights and greenhouse which adjoins the science classrooms. Camera looking S.
- Picture 26 of 26: Aerial view of the school.

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A timeline of benchmark events depicting the exemplary curricular credentials of FSHS provides proof of the significance of the school to the city, indeed, to the entire state of West Virginia. **THE PAST IS PROLOGUE...AN HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF FAIRMONT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL** created by Carol. J. Amos for the FSHS Foundation, Inc.

1864 The first public, free school in Fairmont opens.

1866 The board of education purchases the brick building at the corner of Adams and Madison Streets for a school.

1867 The legislature locates one of the State Normal schools in Fairmont. ("Through The Years" *Maple Leaves 1935*).

1872 The first high school, located in the Second Ward School Building on the corner of Adams and Quincy Streets, occupied jointly by the normal and public school, houses the graded schools on the first floor and the normal on the second and third.

1875 Normal department separates from the public schools.

1876 FHS founded. Professor Thomas C. Miller, for whom Miller Junior High is named, becomes the first principal of the graded public school system.

1877 The first class graduates from FHS in the Second Ward Building.

1880 Authorities establish graduating system.

1893 The Normal School moves to its new location on Fairmont Avenue leaving the Second Ward Building entirely to the high school.

1900 The graduating class, composed of nine girls and one boy, heralds an increased enrollment making it necessary to employ an additional teacher bringing total to four.

1881-1907 *Maple Leaves* lists 227 graduates.

1905 Fairmont High School built at Fifth Street and Benoni Avenue, known as "The Point."

1906 Fairmont High School students occupy the new building consisting of 12 classrooms, labs, offices and a library with the top floor used as a gymnasium. (*Maple Leaves 1957*).

1908 The Junior Class initiates the custom of having a school annual. With their class tree the maple, members call the yearbook *Maple Leaves*. 218 attend with a faculty of eight.

1920 Students first publish *Hi-Life*, the student newspaper.

1922 Gym built

1922 "Mr. Ensel Hawkins, faculty, decided to work out a seal for Fairmont High School." (*Maple Leaves 1925*).

1923 "Mr. Hawkins had seals made in blue and white and used them as merit stamps for work in his department. In 1923 Mr. Buckey decided it would be a good idea to adopt for the whole school, using it as a reward for exceptionally excellent written work. The seal in itself with its 'torch' in the center of 'F.H.S.' might well mean the light or the intellect of the school and, too, that F.H.S. is a light and service to our community." (*Maple Leaves 1925*).

1926 Polar Bear adopted as mascot. (*Maple Leaves 1982*) Originally "Ice's Men", the mascot honored Coach Frank Ice.

1928 Board erects building on Loop Park for \$491,313.00 (Dedication Program 3) with total cost of construction at \$574,131.94.

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1929 Board dedicates Fairmont Senior High School on May 10, 1929.

1929 The class of 1929, the first to have its graduation exercises in the current building, presents the school with the statue of Abraham Lincoln. (*Maple Leaves 1975*).

1929 National Thespian Society originated in Fairmont WV by Dr. Paul Opp and Mr. Harry Leeper. Two of the three original chapters were East Fairmont High School Troupe #3 and Fairmont Senior High School designated as Troup #2.

1946 William Leskovar named Amateur Athlete of the Year

1962 Dave Tork world record pole vault on April 28, 1962 of 16' 2"

1963 Freshman Building accommodates the addition of the ninth grade.

1964 *Scratches*, school literary magazine, originated.

1968 Original 3 act musical written and produced for Thespian Troupe 2 "The Gift" written by Raymond Alvarez with music/score by Mark D. Flint, students. [Alvarez has published several books and Mark went on to a career in opera.]

1969 "*We Bombed in West Fairmont*," written by Raymond Alvarez with music and score by Mark D. Flint, students.

1969 The Polar Bear Building provides "temporary" classrooms.

1970 Graduating class donates polar bear statues.

1971 Monument on front lawn presented by class of 1971.

1976 FSHS celebrates its bicentennial.

1979 February 27, 1979--Fire destroys roof and damages library and top floor. Graduation moved to Woody Williams Armory.

1981 New front steps enhance entrance to main building.

1985 School of Excellence honors FSHS.

1985 Rivesville High consolidates with FSHS. John D. Tennant, principal, adds a touch of red to school colors.

1987 FSHS launches "Project Graduation"

1989 Beautification ReLeaf campaign plants more than 50 famous and historic trees referring to Ittner's drawings for placement.

1990 School of Excellence and Exemplary School.

1991 Channel 1 televisions installed in every classroom.

1992 FSHS Foundation, Inc. establishes board of directors with a vision to establish funds for student scholarships and teacher grants. Lockers replaced after asbestos abatement, restrooms upgraded, chemistry lab addition to freshman building, room 1. First ever undefeated basketball season.

1994 Construction and dedication of the gymnasium, as well as a parking lot, begins and concludes under the leadership of Superintendent Jane Reynolds with SBA funds under State Superintendent Henry Marockie.

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1995 Multicultural classes, speakers, assemblies, courses, representative flags of fifty ethnicities enhance pride of diverse cultures. Curtains, spotlights, and sprinkler improvements to auditorium with SBA funds of \$150,000.

1997 SUCCESS technology grant installs three labs of thirty computers for Language Arts. Closed campus

1997 Dr. David Hardesty, president of WVU, speaks to the student body at the Foundation assembly, which encourages 90% to join as student members.

1998 FSHS wired to Internet just in time for the 21st century.

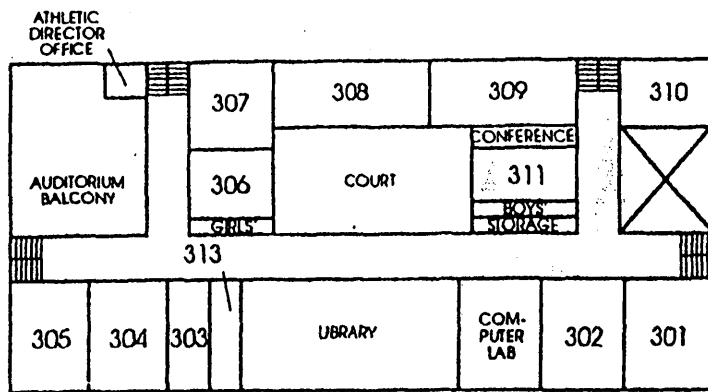
1999 The 119th Commencement begins a third century for FHS. Approaching the new millennium, the school celebrates 70 years at its Loop Park location. Intercom system replaced.

2000 GEISA award received Gazette Excellence In Sports Award by The Charleston Gazette for WV All Sports Champion.

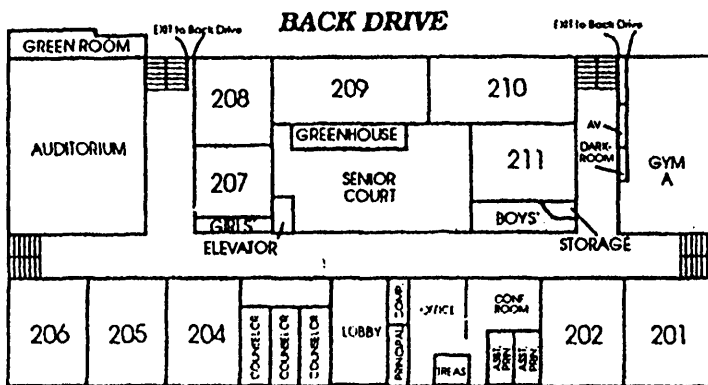
Presidential candidate George W. Bush tossed the coin at the state football playoffs vs. Morgantown.

Governor Bob Wise addressed the student body the morning after his state- of-the-state address.

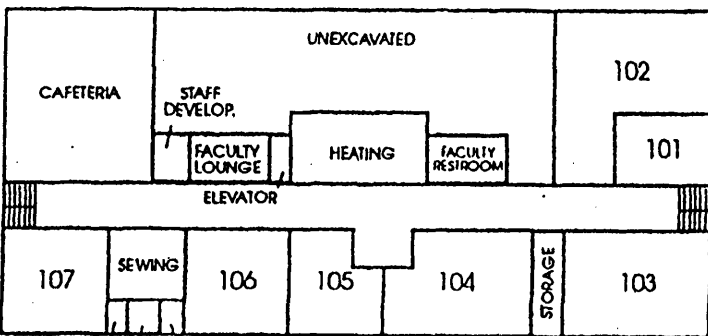
2001 Began 1000 Voices auditorium campaign to restore the theater to its original grandeur.



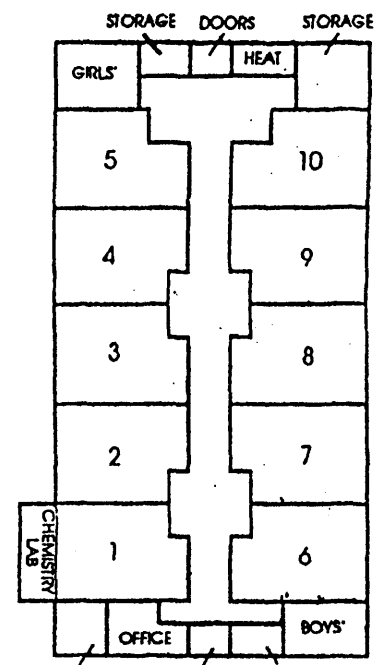
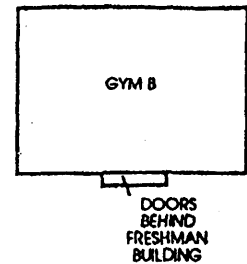
3rd Floor



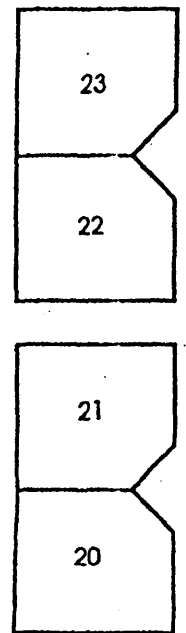
2nd Floor



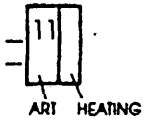
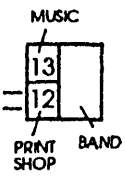
1st Floor



FRESHMAN BUILDING

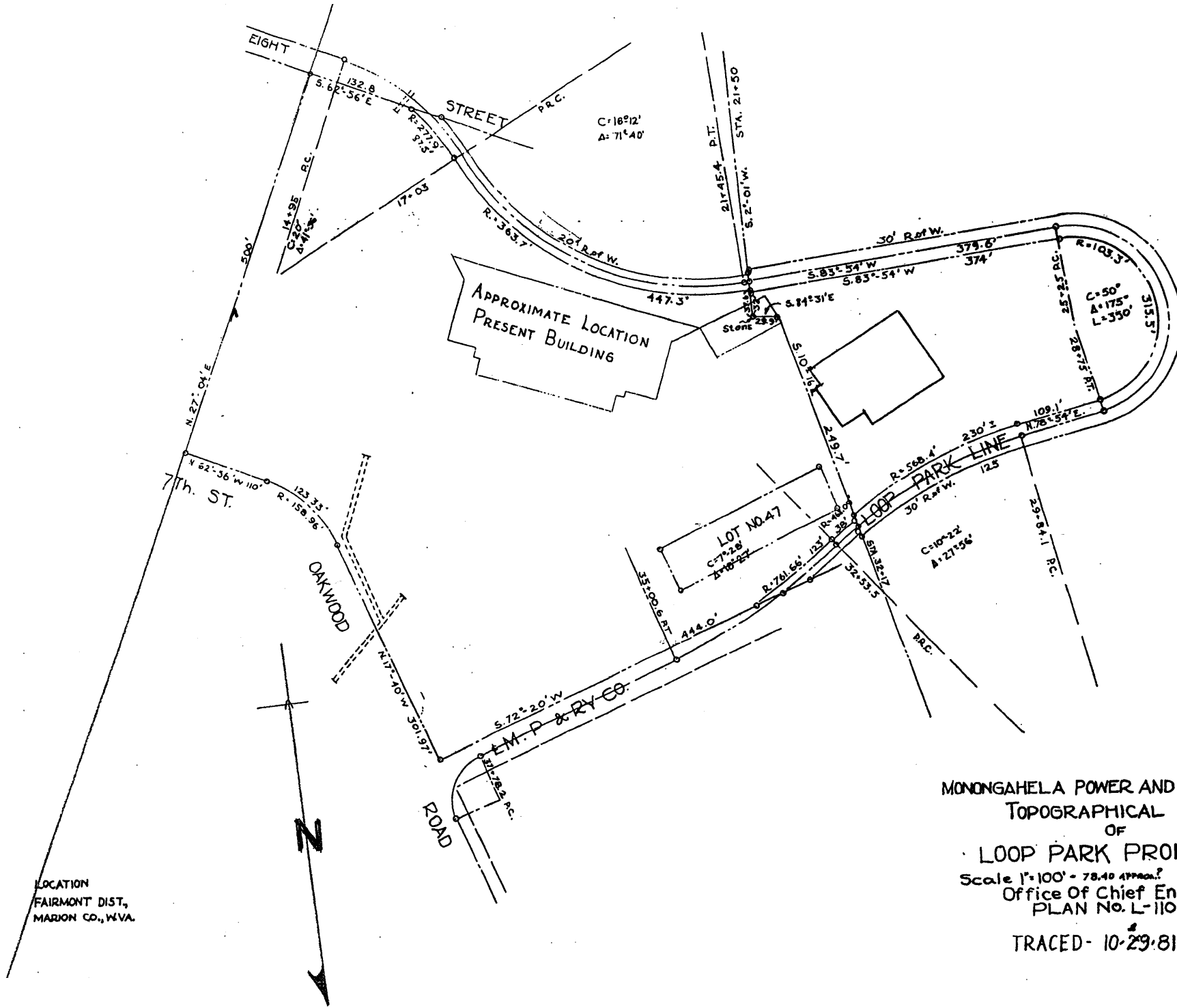


POLAR BEAR BUILDINGS



Fairmont Senior High School

Rev. May 1994



MONONGAHELA POWER AND RAILWAY CO.
 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP
 OF
 LOOP PARK PROPERTY
 Scale 1"=100' - 78.40 APPROX. Nov. 1-1921
 Office Of Chief Engineer
 PLAN No. L-110121

TRACED- 10-29-81 R.HAWKINS