

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Asheville High School

other names/site number Lee Edwards High School

## 2. Location

street & number 419 McDowell Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Asheville N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code 021 zip code 28803

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow, SHPO 3/18/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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.
- other. (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Asheville High School  
Name of Property

Buncombe County, NC  
County and State

**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	
2	3	buildings
2	1	sites
	6	structures
		objects
4	10	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

- 0 -

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Art Deco

Italian Renaissance

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls granite

roof tile

other copper

steel

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.

**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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Education

**Period of Significance**

1929 - 1945

**Significant Dates**

1929

1934

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Ellington, Douglas - Architect

Palmer-Spivey Construction Company, - Builder

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Asheville City Schools Maintenance Dept.

Asheville High School  
Name of Property

Buncombe County, NC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 21.30 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	3 5 9 1 6 0	3 9 3 7 4 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 7	3 5 9 5 0 0	3 9 3 7 5 2 0

3	1 7	3 5 9 4 6 0	3 9 3 7 0 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 7	3 5 9 1 4 0	3 9 3 7 2 4 0

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sybil Argintar Bowers, Preservation Planning Consultant  
Research assistance provided by Andrea Austin

organization Bowers Southeastern Preservation date August 21, 1995

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone 704/ 253-1392

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Asheville City Board of Education

street & number P. O. Box 7347 telephone 704/ 255-5304

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28802-7347

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Buncombe County, NC**Summary**

The 1929 Asheville High School, an imposing Art Deco/Italian Renaissance-style three-story building, was designed by the noted architect Douglas Ellington. The east-facing building is a pink granite, tile roofed, three story, steel-framed structure finished with hollow tile, concrete, and brick. Composed of a central hexagonally-shaped rotunda with two academic wings and one auditorium/cafeteria wing radiating off this central space, the school retains a remarkable degree of its original integrity. The only major addition is a sympathetically-designed concrete slab-faced media center that was attached with a covered walkway to the rear (north) elevation of the school in 1974.

The school is sited high on a natural promontory above McDowell Street which is the eastern boundary of the nominated property and a major north-south artery between downtown Asheville on the north and Biltmore Village on the south. The school site, located just south of downtown Asheville, slopes from the northeast to the southwest. The front of the school building is reached by an inverted teardrop-shaped wraparound driveway, with a newer drive on the north side of the property. North of the main building is a 1965 vocational building. Additional structures along the northwest and west side of the school are a 1949 vocational building, a 1973 gymnasium, and a 1992 cultural arts building. These buildings lie north of the edge of the northernmost walkways that appear on Ellington's original site plan and downslope of a distinct topographic contour line that forms the north boundary of the nominated property and thus are not included in the nomination.

The south elevation of the main building overlooks a natural bowl which defines the southern quadrant of the property. Within this bowl is the ballfield planned by Ellington in 1929 and built in 1934. Over time, two bleacher structures, a press box, two ticket booths and a concession building were added to the ballfield to support the original athletic use. A mature stand of trees forms a definitive edge to the property on the ridge northwest of the ballfields. West of the property, above the bowl of the ballfield area, is Victoria Road, the major artery for the Asheville-Buncombe Technical College campus.

The original 1929 heat plant is located adjacent to McDowell Street and across a natural ravine from the main building and ballfields. It is still used to generate heat for the main school building. A 1940 maintenance building that was heavily altered in the 1970s is located adjacent to the south corner of the heat plant.

The main building, the heat plant, the Ellington-planned landscape, and ballfield are the four contributing resources included in the nominated property. The ten non-contributing resources include the maintenance shop, the concession building, the press box, two bleacher structures, a track, two ticket booths, a fence, and a practice field. Although there are a number of non-contributing resources, they are of a non-intrusive nature and do not detract from the overall setting, feeling, and association of the dominate high school building.

**Landscape Plan. Contributing site. 1929-1934.**

The existing terraced front (east) lawn and circular driveway are shown on Ellington's original site plan for the property, and much of the original terraced walkway systems on the north and south sides of the building, also part of Ellington's original site plan, are still intact. The two contributing components of the landscape plan include Ellington's original layout for the east (front), northwest, and southwest (rear) of the building and the ballfield at the rear of the building, shown on the plan, but not completed until 1934. These formal stairs, drives, and walkways of Ellington's site plan add to the imposing

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character of the main building, and create a system of access necessary in a school of this size. The ballfield to the southwest of the building takes advantage of the natural topographical bowl of the site. The eight non-contributing support facilities, located around the perimeter of the original ballfield, include the practice field (site); track, bleachers, and ticket booths (structures); and concession building and press box (buildings), all of which were added to the campus in 1983. Together these newer additions have helped to maintain the integrity of the ballfield, and have improved the site so that it can continue to be used as originally intended.

The front, or east, entrance to the main building is reached by original stairs in the center of a terraced lawn, also original to the building, and shown on Ellington's site plan. These steps are granite slab with concrete landings, leading from the lower to the upper drive. These stairs and landings are approximately 14' wide. The landings are edged with smaller granite blocks set on end. Large deciduous trees, planted in 1929 soon after the building was completed, are still located in the front of the building. The larger evergreen conifers and shrubbery which line either side of the front entrance stairs were planted in the 1930s. The wraparound entry drive from McDowell Street is lined with granite curbing. Originally pink granite block entry posts framed the driveway entrance, but these were removed since 1945.<sup>1</sup> There is a new concrete sidewalk along the east edge of the property on McDowell Street. Along the south and west sides of the entry drive are remnants of what appear to be original granite flagstone sidewalks, also with granite curbing. The sidewalk to the south leads towards the ravine above the heat plant, and ends at a drive demarcated by granite pillars with beaded mortar joints, portions of which are now gone. A low granite flagstone and slab retaining wall, partially overgrown, is located on three sides. This serves as an environmental studies area, but may have at one time been used as additional parking or as access to the ball fields. Beginning on the south side of the front elevation, at the passage entry to the gym wing, there is a brick sidewalk which leads parallel to the drive across to the entry to the rotunda entrance. This appears to be original to the site. According to Ellington's site plan, there originally was also a walkway from this passage door to the front drive which was in a straight line from the door. One set of stairs remains at the door, but it appears a newer concrete walk which turns away from this straight axis replaces the original. The hillside is terraced down to the south. The concrete pad below the stairs to the loggia entrance is still there and the walkways which lead to each of the cafeteria doors on the ground floor remain. Stairs lead to the doorway nearest the northeast corner of the cafeteria, leading from the main walkway. A granite flagstone retaining wall is still visible on the hill around this doorway. Around to the west side of the main building, the plaza outside of the new media center replaces what originally was a traffic circle which extended out into the northwest corner of the building, in line with the rotunda entrance at this side of the building. A new brick walkway and raised concrete sidewalk with a canopy replaces this drive, although some remnants of granite curbing are still visible near the passage entrance to the shop wing at the northwest side of the building. The new media center building itself also covers this original landscape feature. There were also concrete walks to the auditorium doors on this side, obliterated now by the above-mentioned new walkway.

The original drive on the northwest side of the building extended around to the shop wing, with a loading dock by the elevator. Leading from the original drive by the shop wing are original stairs leading to the upper edge of the playing fields below. These stairs are comprised of "Reynolds Block" and "Robbins Pavers", (imprinted on each block). Cheekwalls are made of the pavers and stair treads are blocks. These stairs lead down to a new concrete walkway which follows the same location as an original walkway shown on the site plan. This walk continues in a straight line to the gym wing, but originally was placed further to the north, in the flat grassy area now used as a picnic area. At the end of this walkway, leading down to the playing fields is another set of original stairs. These have granite

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flagstone slab cheekwalls and "Reynolds Block" and "Robbins Paver" stair treads. Judging from old photos, (1941 Hillbilly yearbook), there was an identical set of stairs to the west leading down from the shop wing. There is a remnant of a stair landing in the center of this hill between the sets of stairs which indicates there may have also been a third staircase down. These stairs and the ones from the shop wing are now gone, and have been replaced by modern metal bleachers on the north side of the ballfield. The remainder of the walkway system shown on Ellington's site plan is still intact. These brick and concrete walkways are interspersed with planting areas. Originally the ball field was surrounded by a low stone wall, but in 1983 a new track was added, as were the press box and concession buildings on the south side of the ballfield and the bleachers on the hillsides on the north and south sides of the field. A practice field located on the southeast side of the ballfield and ticket booths, on the west side of the main building, was also added in 1983 to expand athletic opportunities. A chain link fence surrounds the field on the north, west, and south sides. At the southeast side of the building, there are some original stairs which lead down from this walk to the practice fields below. These have granite flagstone cheekwalls and block and paver stair treads. A newer set of concrete stairs leads down from these to the practice fields.

**Main Building. Contributing. 1929**

Ellington's imposing Art Deco/Italian Renaissance-style three-story east-facing building is a pink granite, three story structure composed of a central hexagonally-shaped rotunda with radiating wings. The building is divided into six distinct areas: the central rotunda space; two academic wings, one of which projects to the south, and one which projects to the west; an auditorium/cafeteria wing which projects to the northeast; a gym wing which extends out from the south-projecting academic wing and projects to the southeast; and the shop wing which extends from the west-projecting academic wing and extends towards the southwest. Exterior walls throughout are rough-cut "Balfour Pink" granite stones from Harris Granite Quarries Corporation of Salisbury, North Carolina, interspersed in some instances by pink granite Belgian blocks between windows at different stories.<sup>2</sup> All corner stones are cut square to form neat corners. All granite other than the stone of the walls is dressed, but is the same type (sills, copings, steps, step cheekwalls). All windows, unless otherwise noted, are metal frame double-hung sash, recessed into the walls and surrounded by granite frames with granite sills. All walls have cut granite coping with modillion blocks just below this at the cornice level. All gabled and hipped roof areas are tile, Imperial' Brittany Shingle by Ludowici-Celadon Company, with composition tar and asphalt on the flat areas.<sup>3</sup> All gutters and roof ventilators are copper. Original skylights called for wired glass with copper framing.<sup>4</sup> In keeping with the labeling system utilized by Ellington in his drawings, floors are referred to as basement, ground, first, and second. The numbering system in the school today labels the ground as the first floor, first as second floor, and second as the third floor. Overall, the exterior of the building has retained a high degree of architectural integrity.

Beginning with the central rotunda, the east elevation of the central rotunda or front entry to the building is comprised of three projecting and three receding bays, with the tower projecting above the entry loggia as a pivotal reference point for the remainder of the building. The roof over the front bays is flat, with a hip roof over the receding bays on either side of the tower. The tower roof is ogee. Bay one of the projecting bays houses the smoke tower. It is two stories in height, with the first floor being the entry from the loggia into the academic wing. There are grills over windows on both levels. Bay two of the projecting bays houses the ten-sided entry loggia. This loggia is one of the main features of the building which gives it an Italian Renaissance influence. The front steps to the loggia are granite slab, with granite block cheekwalls and dividers halfway up the steps also of granite slabs. The landing is granite flagstones, and the floor within the loggia is also flagstone, but is of a golden brown color to

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serve as a transition between the inside and outside spaces. The loggia is entered through a central vouissored arch comprised of a solid granite inner arch surrounded by an outer arch of pink granite stones. Originally, above this arch was the "Asheville High School" sign which was etched in granite. This was later changed to Lee Edwards in the 1930s, and now has a metal "Asheville High School" sign placed over this sign space.<sup>5</sup> On line with this arch is a fanlight over the front doorway. The entrance is two sets of double doors, all with a single light over a solid lower half, and original brass pulls. There is an archway around these doors as well, with a solid granite inner arch, and a vouissored outer arch. The inner walls of the loggia are pink granite blocks on the lower half, broken by a soldier course or brick, then granite block, then a band of brick again at the cornice level. The ceiling is stucco, with the plaster medallions which originally surrounded light fixtures still intact. These fixtures are now gone. The skylight in the center of the ceiling has been painted over. On either side of this entry space is a "grotto" or entry into either the academic wing to the south or the auditorium wing to the north. Entry into these spaces is through a massively proportioned archway which are even with the soldier course of brick halfway up the walls of the central space. Walls here are approximately five feet thick. Original bronze accordion gates close off these side arches from the center space. The floors within these grotto spaces are terrazzo, like interior floors, again a transitional detail between the exterior and the interior. Bay three of these front bays is the same as Bay one. Just behind these three front bays are the tower rooms or original music rooms. (These currently house the guidance offices). Bay one houses a six-sided room. The east elevation here has three single two-over-two windows, and projects up above the top level of the academic wing to the south. Bay two is the central tower or rotunda. It is also six-sided. On this elevation there is a large central six-light window with the Seal of Asheville in tile set into a pointed granite arch just above it. The seal is set into a circle of granite block. Above the seal is a projecting course of granite with alternating vertical bands of pink granite and red brick above. Granite coping caps these bands. Above this is yet another layer of alternating vertical bands of tile and red brick, capped by a narrow granite coping. Bay three is the same as Bay one. The northwest elevation of the rotunda is partially obscured by the reinforced concrete, covered walkway from the new media center which enters this space at the second floor level. This walkway has an interior hallway which covers the original exterior wall and windows at the second floor, with the windows in Bay one and three being replaced with double doors, and the windows in Bay two being filled with concrete panels at the rear of the elevator shaft. There are concrete posts at the ground level supporting this walkway. A gable roof parapet roofline projects above this new walkway at the third floor level (music room area). This roof has a granite coping and three openings where windows were originally. These have been infilled with Belgian blocks at the rear of an elevator installed in the rotunda in recent years. The detailing of the tower beyond this parapet roof is like the east entry elevation described above, including the hexagonally-shaped rooms on either side. At the first floor level of this elevation the entry space is three-sided with a door and two single two-over-two windows on Bays one and three, and a row of single two-over-two windows in Bay two. Single two-over-two windows at the ground floor level of this elevation are now partially or totally obscured by this new plaza area and decking. The southwest elevation of the rotunda area is seven bays wide and three stories tall with a third floor level at the tower rooms above. Detailing of the tower room portion is the same as on the east, except there is solid granite block in the center portion where the Seal of Asheville is on the east. Bays one through seven on all three levels have single two-over-two windows.

The front-facing northeast elevation of the south-projecting academic wing is comprised of fourteen bays. It is three stories in height with a hip roof with a flattened ridge. Bay one, slightly recessed from the remainder of the elevation, has single two-over-two windows on all three levels. Bays two through thirteen all have pairs of two-over-two windows, with the Belgian blocks mentioned above between windows in the first and second floors. All second floor windows here and elsewhere in the building at



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this level have been replaced with compatible new two-over-two metal frame double-hung sash windows. Bay fourteen, like Bay one, is slightly recessed from the rest of the elevation. It has single two-over-two windows located between the basement and first floors and the first and second floors. An original Art Deco light fixture remains on the north wall of this bay. The southwest elevation of the south-projecting academic wing is also three stories tall and fourteen bays wide, in perfect balance and symmetry to the other academic wing. Bay one is the same as Bay fourteen of the previous academic wing description. Bays two through seven and Bays nine through fourteen are the same, with paired two-over-two windows on all three levels, and Belgian block between the first and second floor levels. Bay eight has the same smaller windows with textured glass on the two lower floors as in the other academic wing, and replacement clear glass on the second floor. Bay fourteen has a corner tower at the passage transition, the same as between the shop and the academic wing to the northwest.

The front-facing southeast elevation of the auditorium wing is divided into ten bays. It is three stories in height for the first nine bays, and two stories on the tenth. Bay one is slightly recessed from the remainder of the elevation. The roof over most of this wing is hipped with a flattened ridge. There is a gabled roof over the last two bays, on the northeast end of the building over the stage area of the auditorium. Bay one has single two-over-two windows which are offset between floors on the first and second floor levels. Bays two, four, six, and eight have pairs of two-over-two windows, with the ground floor window on Bay two being slightly shorter than the rest. Bay eight at the ground floor has a window where the upper portion has been converted to a vent. There is Belgian block granite between the first and second floor levels. Bays three, five, and seven are the same as above except that there are double doors on the ground floor level into the cafeteria. These doors are all four-light over panels, double doors, with fixed transoms above. Bay nine is slightly recessed from the rest of the elevation. The door on the ground floor level is reached by granite steps with granite block cheekwalls. The metal rail is original. Offset from the door, at the first and second floor levels are smaller two-light windows with transoms above. Bay ten is recessed slightly from Bay nine. The ground level has two narrow windows, partially covered, of the same style as in Bay nine. The northeast elevation of the auditorium wing is three bays wide, and is three and one-half stories tall in the center. At the northeast corner is a projecting one story addition which serves as an entry into the rear of the kitchen area. Bays one and three are slightly recessed from the rest of this elevation and have half gable tile roofs which die into the center bay. The two-light with transom-style window is on the first and second floor levels. Bay two, which is the rear of the stage in the auditorium has six of these smaller windows at the ground level, but is a solid granite block wall for the remainder, broken only by two vertical recessed areas. The northwest elevation of the auditorium wing is two stories tall for most of the elevation and ten bays wide. It has a tiled hip roof with a flattened ridge as elsewhere on the building. Beginning at the northwest corner, Bay one is one and one-half stories in height with a double door which has been boarded over on the first floor, and a small window above on the second floor. A tiled half-gable roof dies into the end wall of this corner. Bay two projects out slightly from Bay one. At the first floor level is a six-light door with a small window above, and a window on the second floor level as well. The wall at the rear of the stage projects up beyond this bay. Bays three through nine are all the same on the second floor level, pairs of two-over-two windows. The first floor of all of this elevation alternates between double four-light doors with transoms and three-light vertical pane windows above and double two-over-two windows with these three-light windows above. The first floor level is a tall story to accommodate the auditorium ceiling. The remaining windows at the second floor level are within the central auditorium space or the balcony.

The north elevation of the west-projecting academic wing is two stories in height and fourteen bays wide. The roof is tile hip as noted above. Bay one at the first and second floor levels has single two-

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over-two windows. This bay is slightly recessed from Bay two. Bays two through thirteen, at the first and second floors have pairs of two-over-two windows with Belgian block between the windows. Beginning with Bay eight, there are windows at the ground floor level, below grade here, which serve as light wells into these spaces. At the juncture between the northwest corner of the academic wing and the passageway, there is a new concrete patio surrounded by a low concrete block wall, and concrete picnic tables. The west elevation of the academic wing is solid pink granite block. The south elevation of the west-projecting academic wing is three stories in height, and fourteen bays wide. From west to east, Bay one has a corner tower at the entry to the passage, the same as described above at the corner of the shop wing, which projects up two stories. Bays one through six and Bays eight through thirteen have paired two-over-two windows and Belgian block between the first and second floors. Bay seven has smaller double two-over-twos at the center bathroom locations, with textured glass on the ground and first floors, and clear glass (replacement) on the second. Bay fourteen at the ground floor has a double door, each four-light with two-light transoms. The first and second floors have paired two-over-twos.

The northeast elevation of the gym wing which faces the front of the building is three stories in height, but the bottom floor is at a basement level so the entire wing is a full story lower than the academic wing to the north. The entire elevation steps up the hill from the southeast corner to the northeast corner. It is eight bays wide. Bay one at the basement level is comprised of a door with two narrow one-over-one windows above which extend up only to the ground floor level. Bay two of this elevation has a longer, single two-over-two window at the basement level, a shorter two-light window with a fixed transom light above on the ground floor level, and a two-over-two window on the first floor level which is slightly shorter than on the basement level. Bays three through eight have paired two-over-two windows. The roof of this wing is a combination of flat decks and a gable roof with a flattened ridge over the center portion. The east elevation of the passage between the gym and south-projecting academic wing is entered through granite slab steps with cut granite block cheekwalls with granite slabs on top. This elevation is three bays wide. Bay one is comprised of small two-light with fixed transom windows on the ground and first floor levels. The doorway in Bay two is set into a recessed granite frame, surrounded on three sides by square-cut blocks. The door is double, with each door being four lights over a solid lower half. Fixed two-light transom windows are above each door. On either side of this doorway are projecting three-sided bays with tile roofs and recessed lighting coves (lights removed). Bay three has these same smaller windows on ground and first floors, but there is a decorative metal grill over the window on the second floor. This third bay projects up one level above the rest of this elevation, housing the "smoke tower" inside, and serving as a height transition to the three-story academic wing to the northwest. Roofs here are a combination of flat deck and hip. The west elevation of the passage between the south-projecting academic wing and the gym wing is identical to the passage between the shops and the academic wing on the opposite side of the building except that windows have grills over them on Bay one. Stairs here are also concrete with curved concrete cheekwalls, and stairs along the northwest wall of the gym down to the lower walk are also concrete. The northwest elevation of the gym wing is ten bays wide. The roofs over Bays one and ten are flat, with a gable roof with a flattened ridge over the remaining bays. Beginning at the northwest corner, Bay one has a corner tower which projects out slightly. Windows which are located between the basement and ground floor levels have been covered over. The first floor window which is a two-light transom type, is intact. Bays two and three are actually four stories in height, including a sub-basement level. All levels have two-light, frosted glass, operable transom windows. There is a single window centered between these two bays at the first floor level. (This is rear of locker rooms) Bays four through seven have these same windows on all levels, with one basement window in Bay five being infilled with a vent and a metal panel. Bays eight and nine are the same as Bays two and three, and Bay

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ten recedes back slightly, with windows offset from Bay nine between floor levels. The southwest elevation of the gym wing is eleven bays wide. The first portion of Bay one, beginning at the southwest corner, is solid granite block. There is a double door at the basement level, with four lights each. At the ground, first, and second floor levels are three-over-one windows with grills. Beginning at Bay two and continuing on across the remainder of this elevation is a one story granite block addition which was built in 1957 and projects out to the southwest. From Bays two through nine, this addition obscures smaller windows at the basement level, but the paired two-over-two windows on the ground, first and second levels are still visible, although they are covered with metal panels on the ground floor. In Bay ten, a double doorway is obscured at the basement level, and in Bay eleven, a narrow window is obscured. At the ground floor level or Bay ten, there is a single two-over-two window, with a two-light and transom window on the first floor level, and a shorter, single two-over-two on the second floor level. Bay eleven is lower than the other bays by a full story. There are two narrow windows visible in this bay on the ground and first floor levels. The southeast elevation of the gym wing, from the south corner, is three bays wide. The addition mentioned above projects out at the southeast corner. There are no windows on this elevation. Bay one is slightly lower than Bay two, with a flat roof. The wall steps back behind this roofline. Bay two has a gable roof with a flattened ridge, and recessed panels to break the solid expanse of pink granite block. Bay three is the same as Bay one.

The northwest elevation of the passage between the academic wing and the original shops wing has five distinct bays. Bay one is a two story flat roof smoke tower with a grill over the first floor window, with a smaller one-over-two window at the ground level. Bay two is a three-sided projection with a flat roof and a recessed area for an original light fixture. Bay three is a double door, with each door being four-light with a two-light transom above. Bay four is the same as Bay two, and Bay five is the same basic configuration as Bay one, but is lower in height to serve as a transition between the taller academic wing and the shop wing which has a basement level. Steps into this passage are granite slab with granite block cheekwalls. There is a tiled hip roof over Bays two through four. The northeast elevation of the shop wing, from east to west, is six bays wide. Bay one, on the ground and first floor levels, consists of pairs of two-over-two windows. Bays two through five all have these same windows, and Bay six has no window at the first floor level and a ground floor window which is a smaller two-over-two. A portion of this elevation has a flat roof with a taller roofline beyond. The northwest elevation of the shop wing is five bays wide. From north to south, Bay one at the ground floor window is filled in for a fan. The first floor level has a single two-over-two window, and is slightly recessed behind the middle bays. The roof is flat. Bays two through four have a gable roofline with a flattened ridge which projects up above Bays one and five. Bay two on both floors has paired two-over-two windows. Bay three is a recessed loading dock and hand elevator entrance. To the north in this area are the original doors to the elevator, now used as storage. Walls in this recessed area are red brick. There is a flat arch of pink granite block at the entry. To the right (south side) are double entry doors into a classroom. Doors are four-light with a flat brick arch above them. Concrete steps lead up to these entry doors with a new concrete block wall on one side. The ceiling is stuccoed. Bay four at the basement level has two two-light windows with transoms above. The ground and first floor levels have paired two-over-two windows. Bay five at the basement has single two-over-two windows. The window at the ground floor has been filled in for a fan. The first floor single window is two-over-two. This bay is also slightly recessed from the middle bays, and has a flat roof. The southwest elevation of the shop wing is eight bays wide. From west to east, Bay one at the basement and ground floors have single two-over-two windows. There currently is no window at the first floor level, although the drawings indicate one was here originally. Bay two has paired two-over-two windows at all three levels and Belgian block between windows at the basement and ground floor levels. Bays three and four have been changed at the basement level to accommodate space needs for athletic events. Windows here originally have been

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infilled with vertical concrete bands and new doors, but the granite frames remain intact. The ground and first floor levels still retain their original paired two-over-two windows with Belgian block between the floors. Bays five and six have also been changed at the basement level. Windows here have been infilled with stuccoed frames around newer corrugated metal roll windows which serve the concession area inside. First and ground floor windows remain intact, as in Bays three and four. Bay seven has paired two-over-two windows at all three levels. Bay eight at the basement level has a double door, four-lights each. Ground and first floor windows have grills over them, with the smoke tower inside. The remainder of this bay is a large expanse of unbroken granite block. The southeast elevation of the shop wing is also eight bays wide. Beginning at the west, Bay one houses the smoke tower inside. It sits lower in elevation than the middle bays and is also recessed back. Single two-over-two windows are offset between the basement and ground and ground and first floor levels. Bays two through five have paired two-over-two windows at all three levels. Bays six and seven have paired two-over-two windows at the ground and first floor levels, but no window at the basement level, since the building begins to step back up the hillside toward the academic wing to the east. Bays one and eight have flat roofs, with a gable roof with a flattened ridge over the center. There is a five-sided projecting corner tower at the southeast corner of Bay eight, which transitions into the passage area. The southeast elevation of the passage between the shop wing and the west-projecting academic wing is three bays wide with towers which wrap around the corners at either end. The whole area is recessed back to clearly demarcate it as an entry. It has a five-sided configuration, with Bay one consisting of single two-over-two windows at the ground and first floor levels. Bay two at the ground level has a double door recessed into a granite frame as elsewhere, with four lights each. The first and second floor windows are single two-over-twos. The roofline over this bay projects up above the second story in a front gable. Bay three has single two-over-two windows at all levels. Stairs to the entry are concrete with curving concrete cheekwalls.

The two-story Media Center addition was built in 1974. It mimics the basic floor plan of the main building with a central space and wings which project to the northeast and northwest. Walls are reinforced concrete slabs. The second story cantilevers out over the plaza space located on the south side, mentioned above in the landscape description. An elevated, covered walkway of steel, concrete, and glass, leads from the second story to the main building and is connected to the pink granite exterior wall at the third story. This walkway actually serves as a means of separating the newer media center from the main building so the new construction is less of an intrusion onto the historic structure.

The interior of the building, like the exterior, has retained a high degree of architectural integrity. The academic and auditorium/cafeteria wings radiate to the south, west, and north of the central rotunda space, as shown on Ellington's drawings. Transitional passageways connect the academic wings to the gym wing on the southeast and the shop wing on the southwest. While there is a high degree of Classical balance and symmetry within the halls and classrooms, there are many Art Deco and Craftsman details as well. The main alterations have been in the conversion of former large activity rooms into classrooms or offices, or in the division of large classrooms into smaller rooms. Most of the recent renovations have taken place on the second floor level of the academic wings where all windows have been replaced with compatible new metal sashes, ceilings have been refinished, and suspended light fixtures have been added, with original fixtures removed. The only other structural change has been in the former shop wing where the courtyard on the ground floor level has been enclosed and roofed over to form office and storage spaces.

As specified in Ellington's original plans and specifications, all hallways in the academic and shop wings, the ground and second floor rotunda, the smoke towers, the passages leading to the gym and

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shop wings, all bathroom floors, and all stair treads are terrazzo comprised of "granulated marble and Norton Alumdum aggregate".<sup>6</sup> The center of the floor in the hallways is a lighter tan color, with a darker band around the edges. There is a thin brass band which divides these two colors. The darker terrazzo color continues from the edge of the floor up into a ten-inch wide baseboard. At the entry to classrooms is a lighter color terrazzo rectangle with a darker terrazzo band which helps delineate the entry area. Thresholds are cast brass. Wooden baseboards elsewhere in the building are also ten inches wide with a beveled top molding. Typical classroom doors are nine-light over a solid base with a four-light skylight above, and are slightly recessed from the surrounding walls to also help mark the entry. The floor in the first floor central rotunda is a hexagonal shape, eight inches wide by one inch thick with cement mortar in the quarter-inch joints. U.S. Quarry Tile Company of Parkersburg, WV manufactured it.<sup>7</sup> There is a darker band of terrazzo in a hexagonal shape in the floors of the ground and second level rotunda spaces. Unless otherwise noted, most classroom floors, gym floors, and the auditorium floor are tongue-and-groove maple. The floors in the auditorium balcony, dressing rooms, and cafeteria are a "plastic magnesite composition flooring".<sup>8</sup> All walls and ceilings are plaster on metal lath, unless otherwise noted. Built-in locker spaces are still intact as shown on the drawings of the hallways of the academic wings. They are inset within the walls and raised on a small ledge above the floor level. The ceilings of the smoke towers are stucco, and the walls are brick. On all but the second floor, original light fixtures are still in the hallways. Cast iron grills are on all the windows of the smoke towers. Typical staircases consist of the terrazzo treads as mentioned above, with solid plaster balusters. Banisters (handrails) are in a Craftsman style of oak with a slightly raised panel in the center and beveled brass caps interspersed along the length.

Beginning with the ground floor of the rotunda space, the original student activities room (Room 23 on Schedule of Materials, Ellington plans, currently Room 114) has been changed into a Vice Principal's office. The ceiling has been lowered, and new partition walls added to divide this large room into smaller rooms for its current use. The performance platform which was originally part of this room has been removed, but the original heavy, Craftsman style eight-inch wide v-board wainscot and chair rail is still intact in some of the newer rooms. The ground floor rotunda space has brick walls with steam pipes running around the perimeter of the ceiling. An elevator has been added on the northeast wall, but is set back from the space so as not to be intrusive. Brick benches line the walls on the east and northwest walls. The passage to the cafeteria wing has smoke towers on either side. Cafeteria doors are nine-light, in pairs, with original brass plates and handles for "push" or "pull" engraved into them. On the east side of the south-projecting academic wing is an original bath, and north of this (Room 121) is a small classroom which was originally the Banking Room.<sup>9</sup> It has two pairs of windows, a chair rail, and slate blackboards inset in paneled frames with cork boards on either end on the north and south walls. Radiators are wall mounted and centered under the windows, as stated in the construction specifications, and are typical of all classrooms. Room 119 has the same basic details, but has five pairs of windows. This was the Bookkeeping Room.<sup>10</sup> Rooms 117 and 115 are two smaller rooms divided from one large room which was originally the Typewriting Room.<sup>11</sup> There are three pairs of windows in Room 117 and two in Room 115. On the west side of the hall, Room 122 was originally the Stenography Room.<sup>12</sup> Room 120 (originally a classroom) has three pairs of windows, typical of most classrooms. Blackboard detailing is the same. On the east wall is another blackboard with cork panels above and a teacher closet consisting of a narrow eight-light over single panel door with a narrow cork panel next to it, and another above it, typical of most classrooms. Maple floors here have been covered with linoleum. The original bath is still intact in the center of the hall. Rooms 118 and 116 (original classrooms) are detailed much the same, with maple floors in Room 118 and linoleum in Room 116. The ground floor of the west-projecting academic wing is also basically intact. On the south side of the hall, Room 112, now a classroom, was originally part of the Student Activities Room. Rooms 110, 108, 106, and 104, all

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originally classrooms, are typical with three pairs of windows, maple floors, raised radiators, and all the details outlined above. On the north side of the hall, Room 111, now a utility room, was originally an office. Room 107, a very large room, is still used as storage, as it was originally. The Storage Room, Janitor, Female Help, and Laundry Rooms as shown on the plans, are all still there, and still in use as teacher lounges and work rooms.<sup>13</sup> Baths are also intact as shown on the plans.

On the first floor of the rotunda, the floor, as mentioned above, is a red hexagonal tile, and the ceiling has false beams in a hexagonal pattern. The original Art Deco light fixture is in the center of the ceiling. Walls are red brick with a soldier course at the base then running bond above to a single soldier course and a checkerboard cornice of red and yellow brick. There is a fanlight over the entry door. There are benches at all corners of the hexagon which consist of black radiator grills framed by red brick and marble slabs on top. The door into the main offices is nine-light with four transom lights above and side lights of six lights over panels and three-light transoms above. The basic spaces of these original offices are intact as shown on Ellington's plans, with some minor changes. Maple floors are carpeted. The Public Space is intact, although the ceilings have been lowered and a suspended tile ceiling has been added. The Clerk area is the same. The original principal's office also has a lowered ceiling and a Dutch door added. There is a built-in bookcase cabinet with crown molding, as shown on the drawings.<sup>14</sup> The original phone and intercom systems are still intact in the closet in this room. The Vault and Storage areas outside of this room and across the hall are still in use as originally. On the other side of the Clerk's space is the original Dean's Office. This is now used for administrative assistance to the principal. A built-in bookcase remains in this room as well. Adjacent to this room, in what was originally the Girls' Rest Room and the Nurse's Room, are the current principal and coach's offices. Ceilings here have also been lowered. In the Nurse's Room, an original sink remains, and the glass on the door into the hall is textured for privacy. There is also a small teacher's closet or medicine cabinet in the northwest corner of the room. The first floor of the south-projecting academic wing is also very intact. The bronze gates specified in the drawings to the passages between academic wings and either the gym or shop wings on the ground and first floors are no longer in place, and have been replaced by modern fire doors. Tracks used to fold these gates and lock them to one side are still visible on the floors. Beginning with the east wall, the original bath is still in place. Rooms 223, 221, 219, and 217, all originally classrooms, are very intact, and all retain their maple flooring. On the west side, Rooms 220, 218, and 216 are all in use as classrooms, and are intact. Room 220, originally Room 133 on the plans, is the only classroom with wide-board wainscot up approximately eight feet on the walls. This room was originally used as the freehand drawing room.<sup>15</sup> Room 214 is used for an assistant principal's office, and has been divided into three spaces. The original wood baseboard is still in place, and has been reused on some new partition walls. Ceilings have been lowered, but all new walls are set back from the windows so as not to change the appearance from the outside. The original teacher closet remains on the east wall. North of this is an Office, still in use as such by the Athletic Department. It has new paneling, an acoustical tile ceiling, one pair of windows, carpet, and dark stained wood door frames. It adjoins the central office spaces. The girls' bath in the center of this hall, is very intact, including some original sinks. Floors are terrazzo, and walls consist of rectangular tiles up approximately six and one-half feet, with plaster above. Walls of individual stalls are pink marble with solid wood swinging doors. Hollow tiles used in constructing the building are visible in the added storage closet in this bath. The first floor of the west-projecting academic wing, beginning on the north wall, is also mostly intact. The original Teacher's Room is still in use as a teacher's lounge. Floors are carpeted. Rooms 211, 209, 207, and 205, all original classrooms, are very intact. Rooms 208, 206, 204, and 202 on the south wall of this hall are also intact, and are in use as classrooms.

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The rotunda on the second floor is like the ground floor, except there are no benches around the perimeter. Above the student activities room and the main office on the other floors, is the former library (originally Room 224). This room is now in use as offices (Room 308) and a classroom (Room 306). The floor in Room 306 is covered with linoleum. There also was originally a skylight in this room which has been covered. In the recent renovations of the second floor, the original library shelves were removed. A few remain in the storage area adjacent to Room 304, which was at one time part of the study hall. The south-projecting academic wing on this floor, beginning on the west wall, consists of two classrooms (currently Rooms 314 and 316) of the same typical configuration as the ones on the ground and first floors. The teacher closet in Room 314 is in the center of the east wall. The bath is intact as drawn, and Room 312 is also intact, with maple floors and other details. One wall of the former study hall has been removed in order to enlarge this room slightly, and a new partition wall has been added on the other side of the second door into this room. Room 310 is currently in use as classroom space, but was originally a study hall. There are newer blackboards on either end of the classroom.<sup>16</sup> Floors are maple. Room 308, now an assistant principal's office, was also originally part of the library. On the east side of this hall is a bath and then three classrooms and an office which were created out of two large rooms originally, the cooking room, and the sewing room.<sup>17</sup> Room 313 has an original blackboard at the south wall, three pairs of windows, and linoleum over the original maple floors. Rooms 311 and 309 also have linoleum floors and no other original features, since they are comprised partially of some of the home economics spaces which originally were here. Room 307 is in use as an office, and was originally part of the sewing room. On the west-projecting academic wing, beginning with the south wall, is Room 304, currently in use as a science lab, but originally serving as the Study Hall adjacent to the Library space off the rotunda. It has maple floors, five pairs of windows, and a storage area. Room 303 is now a teacher lounge and workroom, but originally was a classroom. It has two pairs of windows, one of which is inside the added bath. Room 300 has maple floors, five pairs of windows, a storage room, and an office. Original blackboards are on the north wall. This room is still a science lab, but was originally the Physics Laboratory with a dark room, wiring room, and an apparatus room.<sup>18</sup> On the north wall, Rooms 305 and 303 are still in use as classrooms. Both retain their original materials and details. Room 301 was originally the Chemistry Laboratory with a dark room and preparation room. Floors are composition, as originally specified in the schedule of materials.<sup>19</sup> All maple flooring on the second floor which was not damaged by roof leaks has been refinished. Damaged floors were covered with linoleum, as noted. Leading from the smoke towers on either side of the elevator are winding stairs which lead to the current guidance offices. These rooms were originally the Tower Rooms, and were used as music rooms for band practice. Upon entering this area, the central hexagonally shaped space over the rotunda on the floors below is in use as a reception area. New walls have been added to create additional office space, with fixed transom lights at the upper portion of each new wall. The three rooms which lead off of this center space are basically intact, with some new partition walls and storage areas added. The original storage room between the smoke rooms on the northwest wall is now the elevator.<sup>20</sup>

The ground floor of the auditorium wing is the cafeteria. Most of the original plan of this room is intact, except that the kitchen area on the north was enlarged in the 1950s. An original grid of columns, four deep, are intact. From the original fifth row of columns, all the way to the rear of the room, is the enlarged kitchen and storage areas.<sup>21</sup> This enlarged area incorporates the electrical panel rooms on the east and west sides.<sup>22</sup> Rooms 9 and 10 on the original drawings still enclose winding concrete staircases with oak banisters (handrails) up to the auditorium. Rooms 7-8 and 15-18 have all been removed and incorporated into the 1950s kitchen area. Rooms 11-14, originally baths, still remain. Walk-in refrigerators have been added at the front of Rooms 11 and 13, and storage has been added at the front of Rooms 12 and 14. The original Coal Room (Room 22 on plans) is now a freezer. The location of

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the cafeteria manager's office and bath (Rooms 20 and 21 on plans) has been changed, and is now located across the passage from the original location. The control panel room at the northeast corner is still intact. Windows within the dining area are paired, with deep granite sills. Floors are linoleum in the dining area, tile in the kitchen, with yellow tile on the kitchen walls.

The first and second floors of the auditorium wing are comprised of the stage and seating, with the balcony above. Floors are maple on the first floor level, and composition in the balcony area (second floor). On the west wall are located three pairs of doors alternating with paired windows. All of the details as shown on the drawings are still intact in the auditorium space, including the stage and orchestra pit. The original brass railing around the orchestra pit has been removed, but the original brass plates which anchored the rail to the floor are still there. Cove lights, as specified, are still located at the front of the stage. There are pairs of windows at the floor and balcony levels. The original beveled "v" board paneling is still intact at the front of the stage and under the windows. Art Deco pattern blocks surround the stage and are located between the windows on the floor level. These blocks are made up of a center raised and paneled beveled rectangle surrounded by a raised zigzag strip on all four sides. A band of four beveled board moldings begins at the stage on both sides and continues over the tops of the stage doors and windows, and follows around the room to form a chair rail between windows. This molding continues around the four pairs of entry doors on the south wall, and up into the balcony, over the entry doors. This molding is partially obscured by the newer acoustical tile ceiling. Molding dies into the grates which are flush with the walls, housing the radiators which are inset into all the walls and below the windows. The balcony rail has this same molding. At the ceiling is a heavy crown molding and a cove ceiling. This molding is currently painted gold, and runs the entire perimeter of the room, and on into the balcony ceiling. The entire ceiling in the auditorium space and underneath the balcony is acoustical tile, added since the original "acoustical plaster" called for in the construction specifications. A lighting catwalk has been added above the floor level, at the ceiling. Backstage, through the stage doors located on either side of the stage, are stairs which lead up to control panel and fly gallery rooms above the stage, and down to the cafeteria below. Floors and baseboards are concrete, as below, but banisters are beveled oak as elsewhere in the building. Stage walls are brick. A wheelchair lift has been added at the right side of the stage. Original chairs remain in the balcony, but have been replaced with newer seats on the lower level. Original oak laminate seats have a stylized letter "A" in carved relief on the aisle seats. Wall mounted radiators are located at the southeast and southwest corners, with newer floor radiators apparently added at a later time.

The passage between the south-projecting academic wing and the gym wing at the ground floor has the same terrazzo floors as elsewhere in the building and original ceiling light fixtures. It is entered through a double door, each with four lights above a solid base with 4-light transom windows above. The entry to the gym is to the left upon entering the building and leads to the mezzanine level of the boys' gym, which is still the ground floor. This level overlooks the gym floor below, at the basement level. The original wood plank seating is still in place on two sides of the gym. Floors in the seating areas are concrete, and the same wide-board paneling used elsewhere in the building is located at the aisles of the seats. Original galvanized iron railings are still in place. Transom type windows are located behind these bench seats. An exposed steel beam ceiling is over the gym floor. The hallway on the north side connecting the seating has a terrazzo floor.<sup>23</sup> The north and south walls of the basement gym level have wide-board wainscot, approximately eight feet up the wall, with plaster above. The bleachers on the west wall are gone, and the radiators are covered. The original folding wood bleachers are still on the east side. Floors in these seating areas are concrete. The gym floor is maple on top of a concrete slab. Wall mounted radiators are located on this side. Walls on the east and west sides are brick. To the north of the passageway areas on both levels are the locker and storage rooms, still in use



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as they were originally. There are stairs at all four corners of the gym. Those on the south side are simple concrete stairs with iron railings, but those on the north side are the same as other staircases in the building. These lead up to the first floor level, which is the girls' gym. Double doors lead into the gym at the northwest corner, with two stairs down to the gym floor. The ceiling is an exposed steel truss system, and posts are also steel. Beveled boards form the ceiling between the trusses. The south wall is like the boys' gym, but the north wall is completely plaster. East and west walls are brick. There is some moveable seating on the west wall beneath the enclosed mezzanine area above. This space is used for equipment storage on the east side. Mezzanine ceilings are beveled boards, and walls of these areas are also board. Flat roof decking is just outside the mezzanine levels on both sides. Stairs at the northeast corner lead up to the locker rooms on the second floor level. There are locker rooms on the first floor level as well, still in use. Locker rooms consist of a series of cubicles with four dressing rooms surrounding a central shower area. There are separate toilet stalls, and sinks located between the cubicles. Floors are terrazzo, and partition walls of the cubicles are pink marble, extending to the floor.

The shop wing is also three levels. Beginning with the basement level, there originally were two rooms located here, the Drafting Room, and the Woodworking Shop.<sup>24</sup> Currently, the former Drafting Room is now the team locker room for sports events. Plans called for a single door into this room, but it appears that double doors with nine lights each were built. Originally the floor was wood, but is now red tile like the floor in the kitchen, probably installed in the 1950s also. A portion of the original wall between the Drafting Room and Storage Rooms has been removed to incorporate the original bath into the current locker room. The former Woodworking Shop is now used as the concession area for sports events, with the changes to windows noted in the exterior description. A new concrete block wall divides this room into concessions on one side and mechanicals on the other, with rest rooms also added. The ground floor, beginning on the east side of the hall, consists of two classrooms, Rooms 100 and 102, now in use as science labs. It appears that although plans called for one large room here to be used as "General Shops", that this was changed slightly at construction and a brick wall was built to divide this into two rooms.<sup>25</sup> Both rooms are entered through double doors with a single wired glass light in the upper portion. Floors were originally wood, but are now covered with linoleum. On the west side of the hall, original plans called for shop rooms surrounding a central courtyard with a connecting bath between the two rooms located on the east side. Most of the changes in this wing have occurred in this area of the ground floor. The former Printing Shop, (now Room 101) is now used as a science lab.<sup>26</sup> Windows into the courtyard have been filled in, and the courtyard itself has been roofed over at this level and converted to offices and storage space. The original bath has also been converted to storage space. Walls in the classroom are brick, and linoleum floors cover the original wood. Ceilings are lowered and covered with acoustical tile. Double doors lead from this room at the northwest corner to the loading dock area. Doors to the former hand elevator are across this loading area. The elevator here is now used as storage. Room 103, the former Auto Shop, has essentially the same changes as Room 101, and is also in use as a science lab. The original hand elevator is located behind the wall at the southwest corner of the room. On the first floor, beginning on the east wall, there is one large room (Room 200), which originally was used as "General Laboratory".<sup>27</sup> It is still used as a science lab. Unlike the floor below, it appears this was constructed as one large room as shown on the drawings. Walls are brick, but original wood floors have been covered with linoleum. Wood floors are still visible in the supply closet. Doors to this room, as to all shop rooms, are double doors with a single pane of wired glass. On the west side of the hall, rooms are configured as originally designed. They face onto a courtyard, with a hallway connecting the rooms on the east side, and the hand elevator on the west. The bath area is now used as storage. Room 201, originally the Sheet Metal Shop, retains its original brick walls, but also has linoleum floors. Room 203, originally the Electrical Shop, also has linoleum floors and brick walls. Perforated board has been applied to the upper portions of some of the

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walls to serve as bulletin boards. The original doors to the hand elevator are still located at the southwest corner of the room. Ceilings in both of these rooms have been lowered and covered with acoustical tile. Both rooms are currently in use as science labs.

**Heat Plant. Contributing building. 1929**

The original heat plant for the school building is located near the southeastern edge of the property. A natural ravine separates it from the playing fields. On the upper edge of this ravine is a small access drive which leads to the fields. Another drive on the south side of the ravine leads down the hill to the rear of the heat plant, along the north elevation. At the front, or east side of the heat plant one pink granite block pillar remains at the entrance. Most likely there was a matching pillar on the other side which has been removed.

This building is a tall one-story structure on the front which drops away to two stories at the rear. There is a two-story addition at the rear. The building is comprised of one large room on the upper level (originally the coal storage room) and a boiler room and an engineer's apartment on the lower level. The vertical block shape of the building is broken only by the smokestack and the addition to the apartment on the north side. Just as the main building, the heat plant is built of pink granite block, with the stones cut to match the main building, according to Ellington's construction specifications. The specifications also called for the concrete foundation to be at least eighteen inches deep, with the thicknesses of slabs varying depending upon the weight of the boiler equipment specified to go on top. An extensive waterproofing system for all concrete surfaces was also specified. Walls were to be brick, with the smokestack to be lined with fire brick in fireproof clay mortar. All partition walls were to be hollow clay tile. The roof is flat, with parapet walls projecting up on the north and south sides. The pillars on either corner of the east elevation originally framed an open space which was used as a depository for coal for the boilers below. This area was infilled with the concrete wall, corrugated metal garage door, and metal door in 1947. There is a pink granite block retaining wall on the north side of this elevation, extending toward McDowell Street. There is a new concrete wall on the southeast corner of the building. The south elevation of this building is a solid brick wall with a granite water table and a concrete block foundation. Projecting from the northeast corner is a granite block wall with granite coping. This wall projects to the east and ties into the entry pillar at the corner. The six-story smokestack of pink granite block with a concrete block foundation dominates the north elevation. The top of the stack narrows to a decorative top which gives even this most utilitarian structure an Art Deco flair. All four sides of the tower, at the top, are decorated with a row of four stepped granite blocks set within a recessed niche. Above this is a granite slab coping capped by an octagonal decorative top comprised of two rows of granite block in an alternating pattern of projecting and receding blocks. The two rows are separated by narrow metal bands. Above these two rows of block is another layer of granite coping, and the whole tower is topped with an octagonal concrete band. All of the original portion of the heat plant appears to have been built as specified, including the engineer's apartment which is located under the coal loading area. A ca. 1950s addition to this apartment projects out to the northeast. This one-story addition has a gabled roof, stucco walls, and metal casement windows with brick sills. There are concrete stairs which lead down to the apartment area from the loading dock above, and stairs from an exterior door into the boiler room on the north side which led up to the original entrance to the apartment. The one-story addition here projects out over these lower stairs. The wall on the remainder of the north elevation, like on the south side, is granite block towards the front of the building, and yellow brick towards the rear. Multi-light steel sash windows with wired glass punctuate the basement, first, and second stories. On the northwest corner of the building is a two-story addition with a gable roof. The west elevation of the building is comprised of the two-story addition mentioned above with the original plant and tower beyond.

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Inside the building, the former coal storage area entered from the east side is now used as storage for athletic equipment. It has an exposed metal truss ceiling with wide boards above. The floor is concrete and walls are brick. Below this is the original boiler room. Walls are brick, and the foundation is concrete block. Set on a platform located along the east wall are two coal fired boilers, still in place, but not in use. A gas-fired boiler is currently in use for firing the system. The steel clean-out door at the base of the smokestack is located on the north wall. To the rear of the boilers is a passageway which leads to the engineer's apartment, entered through the kitchen. The interior of the engineer's apartment is comprised of a living room, dining room, small kitchen, bedroom, large closet, and bath. The living room area which projects to the northeast is the one-story addition mentioned above. The remainder are the original rooms. There is knotty pine beaded board paneling in the living room of alternating wide and narrow boards. Floors are currently linoleum, but are pine underneath. Ceilings have been lowered to add insulation, but originally this room had an exposed rafter ceiling with beaded boards and paneling which extended up to the ceiling. Originally the specifications for the apartment called for terrazzo flooring in the bathroom, the same as the baths in the main building, plaster walls on metal lath, waterproof cement coatings on the ceiling, white pine interior and exterior finishes, one kitchen case, a breakfast nook, a medicine cabinet (all built-in cabinetry), doors of one and three-quarter inch white pine, and yellow pine floors. There is terrazzo underneath two layers of linoleum in the bath, and pine flooring in the bedroom and dining room. There is linoleum over the kitchen and closet floors. Transom windows from the kitchen into the dining room area have been painted over. All doors have a cornice molding, and there is crown molding in the dining room and bedroom. All baseboards are beveled the same as in the main building. At the northwest corner of the original boiler plant building is the two-story addition mentioned above. Upstairs the building rafters are also exposed, and floors are wood. The wall on the south side is brick. Downstairs is currently in use as a carpentry shop. Walls and posts are brick, and the floor is concrete, with a ramp down to the boiler room of the heat plant.

**Maintenance Shop. Non-contributing building. 1940**

Even though this building was constructed during the period of significance, it has been extensively altered so that it can no longer be considered a contributing resource. Located at the southeast corner of the property, just south of the heat plant, this one-story, single room, gable roof building was built for use as a metalwork shop, but is currently used primarily as a storage facility and shop for the school's maintenance department. Alterations to the building include the addition of asphalt shingles in the gables, plywood siding, new door and door frame, and stucco over what appears to be original brick walls.

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After the arrival of the railroad in 1880, Asheville experienced a period of growth in the first two decades of the twentieth century that increased the population from 18,762 in 1910 to 50,193 in 1930. There was no formal public school system in the city until the late 1880s, but by 1890 Asheville was already beginning to feel the pressures of keeping up with the tremendous population growth, and the need for new schools seemed an endless challenge. The "new" Asheville High School, also known as the David Millard High School, was completed in 1919, but the school was already overcrowded by the first day of classes. A second high school, the Hall Fletcher High School, was built in 1925 to accommodate some of this overflow. The population continued to grow, and on February 3, 1927, the City School Board contracted with Douglas Ellington for a new high school on McDowell Street, to be completed by 1928. Ellington was one of Asheville's premier architects in the 1920s, designing many other outstanding Asheville buildings including First Baptist Church, City Hall, and the S&W Cafeteria. The high school building he designed, which officially opened to students in February 1929, is perhaps one of the finest in the state of this time period in terms of its Italian Renaissance and Art Deco design, reflective of Ellington's Classical training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and his thorough knowledge of the more modern Art Deco style. The facility is also a reflection of the up-to-date educational theories of the 1920s that were advocated by Dr. Nickolaus Louis Englehardt of Columbia University and author of *A School Building Program for Cities* that won him national prominence as an authority on public education. The Asheville City School board, like those in Salisbury and Winston-Salem, hired Dr. Englehardt and his colleague, G.D. Strayer, to collaborate with Ellington to ensure that the building and its support structures would be a model facility in terms of architecture and educational offerings. The result was a state-of-the-art high school campus that continues to serve the surrounding student population to the present. The Asheville High School is of statewide significance under National Register Criterion C for architecture and landscape architecture, and under Criterion A for education.

Historic Background

Asheville was basically a small mountain town for most of the nineteenth century. It wasn't until the railroad arrived in 1880 that the nature of the town began to change. The town's population began to take enormous leaps, growing from approximately 2,690 in 1880 to 10,235 in 1890.<sup>28</sup> New neighborhoods were built, the Asheville Street Railway Company came into existence, and the boom times began. By the late teens, building all over the city continued at a frantic pace, and the population continued to grow, with Asheville residents numbering 18,762 in 1910; 28,504 in 1920; and 50,193 in 1930.

Before the railroad, there had been no need for a public school system. But by 1887, the need for schools and a system to run them became more apparent. On September 2, 1887, Dr. Philander Priestley Claxton was elected superintendent of the new school system.<sup>29</sup> The need for schools at all levels, elementary, junior high, and senior high continued. On January 23, 1915, the City School Board authorized an election for school bonds in the amount of \$200,000.<sup>30</sup> In December of 1915, William Henry Lord was selected as the architect of the David Millard High School.<sup>31</sup> Plans were complete by May of 1916, but due to bankruptcy problems with the contractor, Longest & Tessier, as well as a shortage of funds, the school was not completed until 1919.<sup>32</sup> This long delay in opening the new school resulted in the school's being overpopulated as soon as it had opened. In 1924, after five years of continuing crowded conditions, the School Superintendent, W.L. Brooker, reported to the Board that the "...high school has 1,184 enrolled...far beyond the capacity of the building...new campuses needed

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for commercial, vocal, instrumental music...."<sup>33</sup> It was decided that another high school be built on the west side to alleviate some of this crowding. On January 29, 1925, C.G. Sayre was selected as the architect for the "new" high school, to be named Hall Fletcher High School.<sup>34</sup> In May of 1925, construction of the high school was awarded to Spivey, Palmer & Company.<sup>35</sup> In July of 1925, Lee H. Edwards of Greensboro was appointed by the Board to be the new principal.

The population in Asheville of the late 1920s continued to grow, and the Superintendent's report, dated February 8, 1926, stated that the high school had been "far too congested for some time...enrollment was over 1,400, and the capacity was 850..." (Hall Fletcher was still under construction at this time). He also stated in this same report that "...the High School equipment now being provided will be adequate through 1928...after which the high school will be badly crowded again....the next step in the high school development of the City should be a large, central Senior High School plant."<sup>36</sup> The Board, after this report, agreed to "...procure, at once, a suitable site for the central senior high school." W.M. Smathers, Mrs. E.B. Sullivan, C.H. Bartlett, and R.H. McDuffie were appointed to search for a site. On July 14, 1926, this committee reported about a site of sixty-six acres off Victoria Road. More details were gathered about the ownership of the site, and on November 18, 1926, the committee reported that it found "only one site within the City of sufficient size, and of a reasonable price....this tract of land lies between Victoria Road and the new McDowell Street."<sup>37</sup> This report was unanimously accepted by the Board, and Mayor John H. Cathey was directed to close negotiations for the purchase of the land. To finance this land purchase and the construction of the high school, as well as additions to several other schools, a bond issue of \$1,500,000 was proposed. On January 18, 1927, proposals from several architects were presented to the School Board in its selection of an architect for the central high school facility.<sup>38</sup> Architects submitting proposals included Warner & McCormack of Cleveland, Ronald Greene, Douglas D. Ellington, A. Ten Eyck Brown, Northrup & O'Brian, Edward & Jayward of Atlanta, and C. Godsen Jayne. Through a majority vote, Douglas D. Ellington was selected. At this same meeting, Mayor Cathey was ordered to contact Dr. Nickolaus Louis Englehardt of Columbia University to employ him as an advisor to the architect. Dr. Englehardt had worked a great deal with school construction on a national level. He was the co-author of many school housing books and member of the national Society for the Study of Scientific Education. He was also the author of *A School Building Program for Cities*, and was associated with G.D. Strayer, the "foremost school survey expert in the U.S."<sup>39</sup> The association between Englehardt and Ellington helped to ensure that the new high school would be a model facility in terms of architecture and educational offerings. It was noted at this same meeting that the site for the new senior high school was large enough so that it would become "the educational centre of the community". The new school, as recommended by Superintendent Brooker, should be built to accommodate the 1,200 now enrolled, with expansion planned to permit up to 2,000. He stated that an auditorium, gym, laboratories, and a trade school "for those boys and girls who must look to the immediate preparation for earning a livelihood" be on the same site, although the shops should be physically separate. Initial plans suggested by the Superintendent included expanding the function of the high school site to include a "Junior College" with an administration building, a recitation building, a science hall, a library, a gym, an auditorium with music hall, and ample class rooms for advanced music course. He stated that "...these buildings cannot come all at once, but must come if it is to function as a 'real school' and bring to the children the better things that make for a better life." An ample athletic field was also listed as among the equipment needed for the school, to be "...built, not with the athletic view....where could be concentrated large groups of children from all the schools of the system for special occasions and for special programs....such as....festivals, musical concerts and programs by the combined orchestras of all the schools, pageants by the several schools, and by schools in combination." <sup>40</sup>

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The city contracted with Ellington on February 3, 1927, and plans went out to bid approximately three months later. On May 21, 1927, Palmer-Spivey Construction Company of Charlotte was selected as the general contractor (bid \$610,158), J.A. Jones & Co. as the brick contractor, (bid \$587,651), Pickard & Co. as the plumbing and heating/ventilation contractor, (bid \$83,500), and Naiman & Co. as the electrical contractor (bid \$32,492). Plans for the heat plant went out to bid on March 17, 1928.<sup>41</sup> On April 11, 1928, Palmer-Spivey was also awarded the general contract for the heat plant, with "the engineer's apartment in power plant not to be eliminated."<sup>42</sup> The total winning bid was \$48,800. Total cost of the building, including the heat plant, was \$1,362,601. The original completion date for the entire high school facility was to have been the fall term of 1928, but the building, no doubt due to its complexity, intricate detailing, and high quality materials, was not completed until February 1929. Douglas Ellington was paid \$7,500 for his plans, and Dr. Englehardt was paid \$3,775.<sup>43</sup>

Asheville High School officially opened in the middle of the school year, on February 5, 1929. A dedication ceremony which offered special greetings throughout the day, included, at 10 a.m., greetings from Mayor Gallatin Roberts; W.L. Brooker, Superintendent; Mrs. R.A. Little, President of the PTA; Silas G. Bernard, representing the Chamber; Howard Bement, Headmaster of the Asheville School; Douglas Ellington; and Albert Teague, Chair of the County School Board. At 3 p.m., Mrs. George Wright, vice-president of the PTA; Mr. Lee H. Edwards, principal of the school; Mr. H.T. Hunter, President of Cullowhee Normal; Dr. H.D. Learned, Dean of the College of the City of Asheville; and Mr. Newton M. Anderson, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, delivered greetings. The evening assembly included messages from John Cathey, Mayor and Chairman of the School Board from 1923-1927; Dr. John E. Calfee, President of the Asheville Normal School; Mr. George Stephens, the Asheville Citizen; Dr. William Preston Few, president of Duke University; and Mr. D. Hiden Ramsey, vice-president of the Asheville Times. Keynote speakers for the dedication program included Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, State High School Inspector, Superintendent T. Wingate Andrest, President of the State Teachers Association, and Dr. H.N. Snyder, President of Wofford College.<sup>44</sup>

No one was to guess, when the million-dollar new high school opened in the winter of 1929, that in September the Stock Market would crash, and programming for the schools, as well as the City's general economic well-being would bottom out. In 1933 the Citizen Times reported, "The million-dollar senior high school building on McDowell Street was closed by the city school board as an act of economy. The senior high students were removed to the David Millard and Hall Fletcher junior high structures". The students were moved back the following year. All extras were cut off for a time, including most of the technical curriculum. In 1935, the school was re-named Lee H. Edwards High School, in honor of principal Edwards who died unexpectedly that year. The name was changed back to Asheville High School in 1969 when the city schools were integrated. Probably due in part to the difficult economic times of most of the 1930s, in 1937 changes were made in the curriculum specifically for those not going on to college. Lee Edwards High School was one of three experimental schools in the state to make these changes. The new programming included aptitude/interest tests to determine vocational interests, vocational survey within the city to determine where the jobs were; re-opening of print, auto mechanic, manual training and mechanical drawing shops; an apprentice program in the workplace; expansion of the news and magazine publications by students with all printing to be done at the school; and school credit given for supervised home projects. Over seventy-five percent of the student body was involved in this program, with only twenty-five percent pursuing the more college preparatory programs.

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Principals through the years have included Lee H. Edwards (1929-1935; Edwards was principal of the old high school from 1924-1929 also), Joseph J. Stone (1935-1936), W.H. Plemmons (1936-1941), and Herbert Vaughn (1941-1948).

Since 1945, Asheville High School has maintained its high standards for both traditional and vocational education, and has continued to expand the campus through the construction of many new buildings. In 1949 another vocational building was constructed across from the original shop wing, followed in 1965 by yet another larger vocational facility, both serving as examples of the continuing need for training in the vocational arts. The new gym, bleachers, track, and support buildings for athletics programs, media center, and cultural arts facilities also attest to the fact that diverse educational and athletic opportunities are still available at the school.

**Architecture and Landscape Architecture Context**

Douglas Ellington was born in Clayton, North Carolina, on June 26, 1886. He was educated at Randolph-Macon College, the Drexel Institute, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He was the first southerner to win the Prix de Paris, and the only American at that time to be awarded the Prix Rougevin. His measured drawing of the eleventh century Church of St. Trophime at Arles, France, has been cited by experts as the finest such execution of that structure in existence. He was also one of ten first prize winners in the worldwide Christopher Columbus Memorial Competition, in which more than a thousand architects competed. He served for a time as professor of architecture at Drexel Institute, Columbia University, and Carnegie Institute of Technology.<sup>45</sup> Ellington practiced architecture in Pittsburgh before coming to Asheville in 1925 to work on the First Baptist Church. He stayed in Asheville until 1937, when he moved to Charleston. Ellington died in 1960, but his work in Asheville, including the First Baptist Church (1925), City Building (1926), Merrimon Avenue Fire Station (1927), his own house (1928), Asheville High School (1929), and the S&W Cafeteria (1929), are still among the greatest architectural treasures in the city.

Ellington, in speaking about the design of the high school, stated that "By a proper treatment of grounds and with artistic arrangement of buildings, a beautiful effect symbolic of Asheville and different from anything else in the country can be developed....in the selection of materials, the idea is to combine utility and beauty...."<sup>46</sup> Indeed, nothing like the new high school plant had ever been built in Asheville. It combined the use of the best materials available, and was placed within the natural topography of the site. The main school building was placed prominently on the highest hill, with a drive and terraced lawn to the front, while the ballfield was placed within the natural bowl to the rear of the school. While most schools in the city were also designed by prominent local architects, they utilized more traditional, Classical Revival styles popular in the day (see photographs in Dedication Program for Asheville High School). Asheville High was the only fireproof building in the city at the time it was completed.<sup>47</sup>

It is likely that Ellington was chosen by the School Board because they were so familiar with his other work in the city in the mid to late 1920s. "The desire was to have the structure emerge from the ground in fortress-like strength and ascend to its full height with a sense of verticality and inevitability...." This was Ellington's own description of the City Building, completed in 1926, but it could also be used to describe Asheville High School.<sup>48</sup> While each of Ellington's buildings is unique, all combine the use of Classical elements with the more modern Art Deco style. Ellington was a master in the use of color and materials. The High School in particular fits the natural topography of the site as though it had always been on the top of the hill. Ellington's choice of native materials helped to achieve his goal of combined utility and beauty.

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High schools from other parts of the state, namely Reidsville High School in Rockingham County (1923); Needham Broughton High School in Wake County (1929); Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School in Rutherford County (1925); and Jamestown High School in Guilford County (1915, 1926, 1930) also employ primarily the Classical Revival style in their designs. The Reidsville school is a classic temple form with a monumental portico and heavy projecting cornice. Needham Broughton, of all the early 20th century schools from around the state, is the closest to the immensity of Asheville High, in its use of granite, a projecting tower, and several wings. Its style, Classical Revival and late Italianate, is similar to Asheville High, but without the Art Deco detailing. Rutherfordton-Spindale High School is also more Classical Revival in its design, with brick walls. Like Asheville High, it too has gymnasium and auditorium wings separate from the academic wing, and a vocational building. Jamestown High School, with its monumental portico at the front entrance, and many classical details is similar to Reidsville High. However, even with the use of symmetry and Italian Renaissance entry loggia, only the Asheville High School incorporates much of the Art Deco in its detailing, seemingly making it unique in the state of the existing high school facilities. Outstanding not only for its architectural detailing, the siting and landscape design for the building are among the most notable intact features of the property. The integration of the building and ballfield into the natural terrain of the site was specified by the city, designed by Ellington, and, unlike most of the other high schools mentioned, retains this landscape design with a high degree of integrity. According to Catherine Bishir, "....Ellington's work has statewide significance compared to other school architecture here and across the state...."<sup>49</sup>

**Educational Context**

Since its earliest pre-design planning stages, Asheville High School was considered to be the model for educational programming in a high school. The expertise provided by Dr. Nickolaus Louis Englehardt of Columbia University, author of many school housing books and a member of the national Society for the Study of Scientific Education, and an associate of G.D. Strayer, another nationally noted school expert, helped to guide Ellington in his design for an outstanding educational facility. In addition to the traditional courses of study, the school was to offer a complete vocational education opportunity. Some of these courses were to include printing, mechanics, sheet metal, electrical engineering, woodworking, commercial work, cooking, sewing, and home economics. This wide range of course offerings was set up so that both boys and girls would have vocational opportunities, something which apparently was a common educational trend in the 1920s among other high schools around the state.<sup>50</sup> Indeed, when the modern school facility opened in 1929, the building was set up to accommodate an expanded program of both a traditional and vocational curriculum which had been offered previously in the city, but, due to the crowded conditions, did not allow for the proper facilities. There were fifty-nine classrooms in the new building, with a total capacity for student enrollment of 1,500. Course offerings for the High School in the older facility had included English, Dramatics, History, Math, Language, Home Economics, Science, Manual Training, Mechanical Drawing, Commercial, Music, and Physical Education. While these same programs continued at the new building, the facility was of such an enormous size that all departments could be greatly expanded. The manual arts rooms alone contained a print shop with presses, electrical labs, metal and woodworking, chemistry and physics labs, and mechanical shops.<sup>51</sup> The auditorium had a seating capacity of 1,800, and the music department was located in the tower of the building, with space for four practice rooms. Future plans called for the construction of a "....natural amphitheatre in a natural depression close by the High School Auditorium...."<sup>52</sup>



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Publications produced by the students continued at the new building, including *The Hillbilly*, the school's yearbook and winner of the "best annual in the state" in 1925; the *Sky High* newspaper, which received a bronze medal from the Van Am Club of Columbia University in 1925; and *Peaks* literary magazine. The *Sky High* was first published in 1926. The "Junior Citizen," a special supplement to the *Asheville Citizen* Sunday edition, also was written by journalism students.

Many extracurricular clubs also existed in the school, including the Student Co-op Council, Golden Mask (honorary drama society), Torchlight (honor society), radio and literary clubs, Home Economics Club, Commercial Club, Debate Club, and Junior Optimist Club. All these programs remained until 1932, when economic times dictated that some departments be cut back or eliminated. In 1932, for example, the physical education program was no longer offered. The 1934 and 1935 *Hillbilly* yearbooks were minimal publications, indicative of the difficult economic times of the 1930s. By 1936, as the economy began to improve generally, the yearbook was once again in full publication, but the manual training and mechanical drawing programs were gone.

In 1938, course offerings included English, math, history, French, Latin, science, commercial home economics, music, physical education, Bible studies, art, printing, and vocational. A full range of classes was offered in the late 1930s to the mid-1940s. In 1937 a more intensive vocational studies program was initiated. (see historical background above). A Distributive Education program began in 1941, which enabled students to work part-time in area businesses. In 1943 machine shop work, radio, typing, shorthand, health, and Spanish classes were added to the curriculum. Aeronautics, communications, and public speaking classes were added in 1944, and, in 1945, classes in vocational radio and vocational electrical appliance work were added.

Yearbooks from 1943-1945 indicate a great deal of the students' time was spent supporting the war effort, including the sale of war stamps and some of the female students helping in local day nurseries so mothers could help in "war work". It was not surprising that the students would become so involved in social programs outside of the school, since based on the types of clubs present in the school through the years, Asheville High students had always maintained a close connection to the community. Some of these service type clubs included the Radio Club, the Commercial Club, the Service Club, band and orchestra groups, the Diversified Occupation Group, the Marionette Group (which performed for younger school children), the Junior Red Cross, the Community Sing club, the National Forensic League club (speech), and the Pan-American club (set up to better the relations among American nations). Overall, through its period of significance the school maintained its educational and social philosophies of combining the traditional academic curriculum with vocational opportunities. The school still maintains this type of programming, with a much enlarged vocational building added to the campus in the 1960s. Comparatively speaking, Asheville High was not unique in the state in its educational offerings, but the enormity of the physical plant enabled students and faculty to develop these curriculum to the fullest. When Asheville High opened, the Asheville System of Schools had been given first place in its efficiency rating, as compared to all other school systems in the state.<sup>53</sup> Asheville high schools had also been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools since 1913.<sup>54</sup>

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1. *Hillbilly* photos up to 1945 show these pillars are still intact.
2. Construction specifications dated May 9, 1927, "General Specifications" section
3. Construction specifications, "Roofing and Sheet Metal Work" section.
4. *Ibid.*
5. The *Hillbilly*, 1938, has a photo of the entry arch with the "Lee H. Edwards" name etched in granite.
6. Construction specifications, "Marble, Slate Tile, and Terrazzo" section.
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*, "Composition Floors" section.
9. See ground floor plan, Academic wings, Ellington's original drawings, dated May 9, 1927.
10. *Ibid.*
11. *Ibid.*
12. *Ibid.*
13. See ground floor plans, Academic wings, original drawings.
14. See first floor plan, Academic wings, original drawings.
15. Construction specifications, "Carpentry and Mill Work" section.
16. See second floor plan, Academic wings, original drawings.
17. *Ibid.*
18. *Ibid.*
19. *Ibid.*
20. See third floor plan, Academic wing, original drawings.
21. See ground floor plan, Auditorium wing, original drawings.
22. *Ibid.*
23. See basement and ground floor plans for Gym wing, original drawings.
24. See basement floor plan for Shops wing, original drawings.
25. See ground floor plan for Shops wing, original drawings.
26. *Ibid.*
27. See first floor plans for Shops wing, original drawings.
28. Douglas Swaim, ed., *Cabins and Castles* (Asheville: Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1981), pp. 38-40
29. See National Register nomination for Claxton School, Sec. 8, page 1.
30. City School Board minutes, January 23, 1915, p. 81.
31. *Ibid.*, December 16, 1915, p. 11.
32. *Ibid.*, October 7, 1919, p. 65.
33. *Ibid.*, March 26, 1924, p. 247.
34. *Ibid.*, January 29, 1925, p. 280.
35. *Ibid.*, May 22, 1925, p. 317.
36. *Ibid.*, February 8, 1926. This report also stated that "....The present High School and the one under construction would become our Junior High Schools. This would give the city the ideal organization...."
37. *Ibid.*, November 18, 1926. The committee reported, in addition, that "....The property is owned by two separate syndicates, the Vanderbilt lands, comprising about 23 acres, and the Gray Development Company lands, which comprise approximately 25 acres....A valley between the two school sites affords an excellent opportunity for the development of an athletic field. With grading, this depression lends itself to the development of an athletic stadium. The plateau on the gray Development Company's land will give us a most excellent site for a Senior High School..." (The adjoining Vanderbilt lands were used to develop a technical college, now Asheville-Buncombe Technical College).
38. *Ibid.*, January 18, 1927, pp. 36-38.

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39. "Ellington is Architect for City's new Schools." *Asheville Citizen-Times*. 26 November 1927.
  40. Ibid., May 21, 1927, pp. 56-57.
  41. Ibid., Nov. 20, 1927.
  42. Ibid., April 11, 1928, p. 94.
  43. Ibid., August 12, 1927, p. 76 and October 25, 1927, p. 83.
  44. "Asheville Senior High School Dedication Program." February 5, 1929.
  45. National Register Nomination for Asheville City Hall, April 25, 1976.
  46. Our Town Asheville, May 1978, "History of Asheville High School."
  47. "Asheville Senior High School Dedication Program", booklet.
  48. "Dedication of the City Building, Asheville, North Carolina", booklet.
  49. Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1990), pp. 412-416.
  50. "Ellington is Architect for City's New Schools."
  51. The Hillbilly, Yearbook for Asheville High School, 1928 and 1929.
  52. This amphitheater shows up in Ellington's sketch of the campus shown on the "Asheville Senior High School Dedication Program", February 5, 1929, but was never built, most likely due to lack of funds. The ball fields were completed, however, in 1934, as Ellington had planned.
  53. "Asheville Senior High School Dedication Program".
  54. Ibid.

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### Major Bibliographical References

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The Architectural Record. September 1929, pp. 193-204.

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Hood, Davyd Foard: National Register Nomination for Rutherfordton-Spindale Central  
High School, Rutherfordton, NC, 1992.

Opperman, Langdon E.: National Register Nomination for Jamestown High School,  
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Phillips Laura A. W.: National Register Nomination for Reidsville High School,  
Reidsville, NC, 1993.

Plat map, Gray Development Company and Vanderbilt Lands, bought by Asheville City  
School Board for new high school site, 1926.

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Property map, Asheville High School, 1995.

"Senior High School Re-Named in Honor of Lee H. Edwards." Asheville Citizen,  
15 May 1935.

"Will Reshape Course of Study at School to Suit Pupil Needs." Asheville Citizen,  
27 July 1937.

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### **Boundary Description**

The boundaries for this nomination are indicated on the accompanying orthophoto county tax map.

### **Boundary Justification**

These boundaries include the original 1929 high school building, the 1929 Heat Plant, and significant elements of Douglas Ellington's original site plan, including the 1934 ballfields. It does not include any other modern buildings added in the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1990s to the school campus, except those smaller support buildings which have been added to the original athletic facilities. Modern parking facilities are also eliminated from this scheme, so that overall, the boundaries are as close as possible to the original campus layout.

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## Asheville High School: Photographs

The following information applies to all of the photographs, except where noted.

Name of Property: Asheville High School  
419 McDowell Street  
Asheville  
Buncombe County  
North Carolina

Photographer: Sybil Argintar Bowers  
Date of photos: May 1995  
Location of original negatives: Division of Archives and History  
One Village Lane  
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

1. Front entrance and terraced front lawn of main building, looking west
2. Rear of main building, ballfield, bleachers, looking northeast
3. Detail, entrance loggia, looking west
4. Gym wing, looking southwest
5. Landscape at rear, original walkways, looking northeast
6. Ballfields, bleachers, press box, looking south
7. Interior, main building, academic wing typical hallway, looking west
8. Typical interior doorway, looking northeast
9. Auditorium interior, looking northeast
10. Cafeteria interior, looking southwest
11. Boys gym interior, gym wing, looking south

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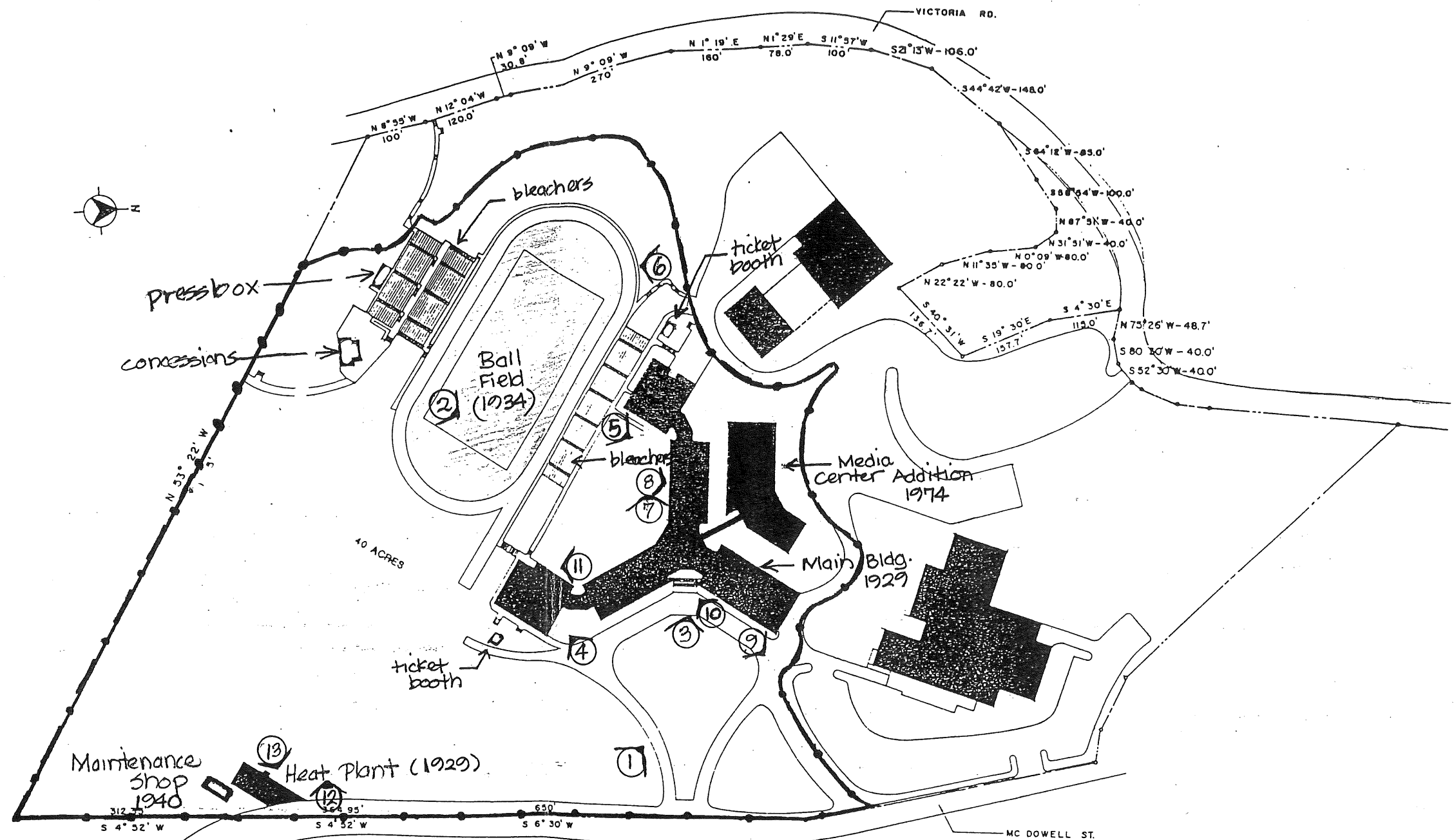
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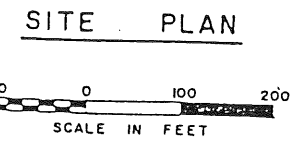
12. Heat plant and smokestack, looking west
13. Interior of heat plant, original boiler room in lower level, looking southeast
14. Exhibit A: Ellington's plot plan from The Architectural Record, 1929  
(Photographer: Nick Lanier; Date: August 1995)
15. Exhibit B: Ellington's site plan (ground floor plan) from The Architectural Record,  
1929 (Photographer: Nick Lanier; Date: August 1995)
16. Exhibit C: The Hillbilly yearbook aerial photo, 1943  
(Photographer: Nick Lanier; Date: August 1995)





SKETCH MAP

ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
 419 McDOWELL STREET  
 ASHEVILLE, NC  
 BUNCOMBE COUNTY



- BOUNDARY OF NOMINATED AREA
- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING
- ⊙ PHOTO AND DIRECTION OF VIEW (#7-11 and 13 are interior views)

