NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Westport High School

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970

2. Location

Street & number 315 E. 39th Street | N/A | not for publication

City or town Kansas City | N/A | vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Jackson Code 095 Zip code 64111

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B _X_ C ___ D

Mark A. Miles Dec 11, 2014

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ determined eligible for the National Register

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

	private
X	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Tudor Revival - Jacobethan

MODERN MOVEMENT

MODERN MOVEMENT/Post-Modern

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK
STONE
roof: ASPHALT
other: TERRA COTTA

X **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUTATION PAGES**

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.
- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1908

1964

Significant Dates

1908

1964

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith, Charles A. (Architect – 1908)

George Swenson & Co. (Builders – 1908)

Bennett Construction Co. (Builders – 1964)

Shaughnessy Fickel & Scott (Architect – 1992)

[x] **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUTATION PAGES**

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
_X_Other

Name of repository: **Missouri Valley Special Collections**
Kansas City Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9.4 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
1	39.055174	-94.581526	3		
2			4		

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Nugent, Associate, Elizabeth Rosin, Principal

organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date July 2014

street & number 215 W. 18th Street telephone 816-472-4950

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Westport High School**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson** State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Brad Finch, f-stop Photography**

Date Photographed: **July 17, 2014**

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

1 of 21: Front (north) elevation, view south (December 29, 2011)
2 of 21: East elevation of 1908 Block and 1964 Block, view west
3 of 21: Rear (south) elevation of 1908, 1964, and 1992 blocks, view north
4 of 21: South and west elevations of 1992 Block, view northeast
5 of 21: West elevation of 1992 enclosed walkway, view east
6 of 21: West elevation of 1908 Block with 1992 enclosed walkway, view northeast
7 of 21: E. 39th Street, view east. Westport Middle School on the right
8 of 21: McGee Street, view south
9 of 21: Athletic fields and 1992, 1964, and 1908 blocks, view northwest
10 of 21: Historic stair at northeast corner of property, view southwest
11 of 21: 1908 Block, north entrance vestibule and stair, view northwest
12 of 21: 1908 Block, main corridor, 1st floor, view west
13 of 21: 1908 Block, northwest stair at 1st floor, view south
14 of 21: 1908 Block, auditorium, view southeast
15 of 21: 1908 Block, lower gymnasium, view southwest
16 of 21: 1908 Block, upper gymnasium, view southwest
17 of 21: 1908 Block, typical classroom, view southeast
18 of 21: 1964 Block, typical corridor, view north
19 of 21: 1964 Block, typical classroom, view southeast
20 of 21: 1992 Block, enclosed walkway from 1992 Block to 1908 Block, view north
21 of 21: 1992 Block, library, view southeast

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1. Historic Photograph. Old Westport High School, c. 1900. *Courtesy Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.*
Figure 2. Historic Photograph. Old Westport High School, c. 1915. *Courtesy Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.*
Figure 3. Historic Photograph. New Westport High School, c. 1915. *Courtesy Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.*
Figure 4. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Volume 4, Sheet 57, 1951.
Figure 5. Detail of 1st floor corridor finishes. 2014. Finch
Figure 6. Detail of Auditorium pilaster capital. 2014. Finch
Figure 7. Site Map. *ArcGIS 2013*.
Figure 8. Context Map. *ArcGIS 2013*.
Figure 9. Chronological plan.
Figure 10. Photo Map: Exterior
Figure 11. Photo Map and Plan: Ground Level
Figure 12. Photo Map and Plan: First Floor
Figure 13. Photo Map and Plan: Second Floor
Figure 14. Plan: Third Floor

SUMMARY

Westport High School at 315 E. 39th Street sits atop a steep hill, overlooking Gillham Park in the heart of midtown Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. The stately building expresses the architectural vocabulary of a public high school designed for the Kansas City School District by District architect Charles A. Smith. It is an excellent example of the High School property type defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," (MPDF). The building was constructed in three phases. The three-story north block, constructed in 1908, has reinforced concrete construction, a rubble stone water table at the raised basement, brick cladding, and a flat roof. The 1908 block is nearly square in plan and has bilateral symmetry on the front (north) elevation *(Photo 1)*. Restrained limestone and cream-colored terra cotta ornament express the Jacobethan style with an elaborate entrance surround as well as stepped and curved parapets *(Photo 1)*. Constructed in 1964, the small southeast addition references the massing and façade arrangement of the 1908 block while using materials and fenestration to differentiate it *(Photo 2)*. This Modern Movement addition, with its flat roof, banded windows, and no applied ornament, meets the registration requirements defined in the MPDF for Modern Era High Schools. The 1992 block at the southwest corner expresses the Post-Modern style through its exaggerated fenestration patterns and columns, although the differentiation of materials between the upper and lower stories is a direct reference to the 1908 block *(Photo 3, 9)*. The 1992 block is set back and does not detract from the 1908 building. Constructed outside the period of significance, the 1992 addition is a non-contributing element. The interior retains integrity as well, with its wide corridors lined with classrooms and the central gymnasiums and elaborately ornamented auditorium. The two additions are compatible with the 1908 block in material, design, and location. They reflect the evolution of the building in its continuous use as a high school. The period of significance is 1908 and 1964, the dates of construction for both the primary 1908 block and the 1964 addition.

ELABORATION

SETTING

The 9.4-acre Westport High School (High School) property occupies the entire block bounded by E. 39th Street on the north, Locust Street on the east, E. 40th Street on the south, and McGee Street on the west, with the exception of two triangular parcels on Locust Street owned by the City. The blocks to the south and west are predominantly residential with two-and-one-half-story single-family residences and two- to four-story apartment buildings, most dating to the early- to mid-twentieth century *(Photo 8)*. A commercial corridor runs north-south along Main Street, just three blocks to the east.[1] The property sits at the top of a steep hill that descends into Gillham Park, an early resource in Kansas City's Parks & Boulevards system, on the east edge of the property, across Locust Street. Gillham Park and Hyde Park, to the north, separate the school from residential neighborhoods of similar vintage that form the east ridge of the valley.[2] Westport Junior High School occupies the property northwest of the High School *(Photo 7)*.[3] The private, parochial school, Notre Dame de Scion, sits on the ridge to the northeast, across Hyde Park. An

[1] The commercial buildings that line Main Street between 38th and 40th Streets comprise the South Side Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 9, 1983.
[2] The residential neighborhoods on the east side of Gillham and Hyde parks in close proximity to Westport High School include Janssen Place Historic District, Hyde Park Historic District, and South Hyde Park Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 7, 1976, November 21, 1980, and November 14, 2007, respectively.
[3] Westport Junior High School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 15, 2014.

asphalt parking lot associated with the school occupies the large lot across McGee Street to the west, outside the boundary of the nominated property.

The building sits at the northwest corner of the roughly trapezoidal lot facing north towards E. 39th Street. The grassy lawn in front of the building slopes gently down to the public sidewalk at the perimeter of the property. A semi-circular walk curves from the sidewalk to the front door at the center of the façade. Historic dimension stone walls with limestone caps line the walk. Concrete stairs with low stone walls connect the north ends of the walk to the public sidewalk *(Photo 10)*. Low stone walls flank the two sets of concrete stairs closer to the center of the building that lead from the semicircular walk to the concrete patio that abuts the building between the end pavilions. Historic dimension stone retaining walls create terraces immediately adjacent to the east side of the building. A concrete double-return stair with dimension stone walls connects the east entrance with the paved drive to the east. Non-historic concrete retaining walls at the east edge of the property create level ground as the grade drops to the south and east. Historically, the school did not have any outdoor recreation areas *(Figure 4)*. The boundaries of the current lot were achieved in 1991. The School District acquired the block to the east and the remaining lots on the block to the south of the building in 1990, creating a single lot in 1991 that encompasses the boundaries of this nomination.[4] On those lots the District constructed a surface parking lot and outdoor athletic facilities. An open, grassy lawn fills the northeast corner of the property. A non-historic track with concrete bleachers and a center athletic field occupy the southern third of the lot *(Photo 9)*. A narrow strip of lawn abuts the west side of the building. Concrete public sidewalks encircle the property. Mature deciduous and evergreen trees dot the lawn immediately surrounding the building.

1908 BLOCK

Exterior

The 1908 block has a roughly square footprint and a flat roof. Dimension limestone capped with a cut stone band clads the raised basement. Red brick clads the upper three stories on each elevation. Glazed terra cotta and limestone provide restrained ornament that expresses the Jacobethan style. A terra cotta beltcourse below the third-story windows, a terra cotta cornice with dentils, and shaped parapets ornament the north, east, and west facades. The beltcourse and cornice continue on portions of the south elevation.

Bilateral symmetry defines the five-part front (north) façade with its projecting center and end pavilions. The east and west façades have center pavilions that project slightly. The center pavilions on each façade contain entrances with elaborate stone surrounds. The exterior doors are replacement metal slab doors with upper glazed panels. Non-historic aluminum windows fill the historic masonry openings on all elevations. Four-part single-hung aluminum windows have an operable lower sash with three fixed upper sashes. The raised basement has one-over-one single-hung aluminum windows. Painted plywood panels cover the basement windows in many locations. Two light wells provide illumination and ventilation to the corridors and auditorium. The tar and gravel roof is flat behind the parapets of the building. Historic skylights pierce the center of the roof above the auditorium and the gymnasium. Modified bitumen roofs cap the two additions.

[4] Jackson County, Missouri Recorder of Deeds, Plat, Book 38, Page 75, March 5, 1992, http://records.jacksongov.org, (accessed July 22, 2014).

North Elevation

The front (north) façade has bilateral symmetry *(Photo 1)*. Fenestration defines the bays in the projecting pavilions and recessed areas. The end pavilions are identical to each other and have four windows in each story. The basement has four rectangular openings with rusticated stone lintels. Painted plywood covers the basement openings in the east pavilion. At the first and second stories, the windows are recessed slightly from the main façade. The brick spandrel between the stories is also recessed. Vertical brick bands separate the windows. The band between the two inner windows is also recessed in the same plane as the spandrel. These punched openings have stone sills. Single windows flank the paired center window on the third story. The terra cotta beltcourse below the windows forms a continuous sill. Terra cotta quoins surround these windows. A small shield ornaments the exaggerated keystone in the flat arch above the paired window. Engaged torcheres occupy the space between the single and paired windows, and connect to the dentils of the terra cotta cornice above. The dentils alternate between floral motifs. A blind oculus with flanking terra cotta scrolls and short piers ornament the center of the curved parapet. The parapet, with its terra cotta coping, steps up at the corners of the façade.

The inner recessed sections of the five-part north façade are identical to each other. The basement has six one-over-one windows with rustic stone lintels. Above the cut stone water table, the three slightly recessed two-story bays have continuous limestone sills. Each bay has two narrow punched window openings at each story. The rectangular windows have limestone sills. Paired windows with ornate limestone lintels fill the three bays on the third story above the terra cotta beltcourse. Stone shields ornament the exaggerated keystones of the lintels. A terra cotta beltcourse with ornate dentils caps the third story. A simple stepped parapet with terra cotta coping rises above the beltcourse.

The center projecting pavilion is the most elaborate and contains the main entrance to the school. The pavilion has three bays and bilateral symmetry. Limestone steps rise from the sidewalk to the elaborate two-story entry at the center bay. Limestone blocks frame the paired center doors and flanking single doors at the ground level and the corresponding windows at the first story. The non-historic entries have aluminum frames, metal slab doors with upper glazed panels, and short transoms. These replacement doors fill the historic masonry openings. The stone entablature between the doors and the windows above is inscribed “WESTPORT HIGH SCHOOL.” The ornate terra cotta surround with quoins and a heavy cornice rises from a limestone base. Scrolls framing a coquillage form the elaborate terra cotta ornament at the center of the parapet above the cornice. Scroll brackets support the coping of the stepped, arched parapet. Terra cotta bands frame the three windows in the second story. Thick terra cotta surrounds with quoining and exaggerated keystones frame the three windows in the third story. Three windows with a terra cotta surround, cornice, and blind oculus, fill the center bay in the half story as it rises above the main cornice. A terra cotta finial ornaments the arched parapet above the windows. Above the entrance, single windows flank the central tripartite windows in each story. Terra cotta surrounds with quoins frame the third-story windows in the outer bays, similar to the center bay. The flanking bays of the third story have stepped parapets, terra cotta ribbons, and shields framing open books.

East Elevation

The east elevation is not quite symmetrical *(Photo 2)*. The central pavilion projects outward slightly from the main façade. Rusticated stone clads the raised basement while red brick clads the upper three stories. The cut stone water table caps the base. A terra cotta beltcourse and a terra cotta cornice with ornate dentils frame the third story. A stepped parapet with terra cotta coping caps the façade. Fenestration divides the façade into eight irregular bays at each story. Although the bays vary in width and window configuration, the materials and treatment at each story is consistent across the bays. At the basement, the punched openings have rusticated stone sills and cut stone mullions. At the first and second stories, the windows are recessed slightly from the main façade. The brick spandrel between the stories is also recessed. Vertical brick bands separate the windows when there are two openings in a bay. The band between the two inner windows is also recessed in the same plane as the spandrel. These punched openings have stone sills. At the third story, the rectangular openings have stone sills and flat terra cotta lintels with exaggerated voussoirs. Terra cotta shields framing open books ornament the exaggerated keystone of each lintel. From the south, Bay 1 has a tripartite window with three frames of equal width. Bays 2 and 3 each have two paired windows. Bays 5 and 8 each have a tripartite window while Bays 6 and 7 each have a paired window. Bay 4 in the projecting center pavilion has unique fenestration. The elaborate entrance surround has limestone quoins up to the basement water table. Terra cotta quoins and an ornate entablature complete the surround. A non-historic aluminum frame with sidelights, recessed paired doors, and tall transoms fills the nearly two-story opening. The terra cotta sash, shield with an open book, and floral scrolls ornament the entablature. The second story has two single window openings with stone sills. Terra cotta quoins and lintels frame the two single windows on the third story. A blind oculus with exaggerated keystones and scroll brackets, executed in terra cotta, ornaments the arched parapet above the cornice at the third story.

West Elevation

The west elevation is similar to the east elevation in materials, ornament, and treatment of window bays *(Photo 6)*. Fenestration divides the façade into eight irregular bays. From the north, Bays 1, 2, 4, and 8 have tripartite windows at each story. Bay 3 has a paired window. Bays 6 and 7 have each have two paired windows. Bay 5, the projecting central entry bay, is identical to the corresponding entry bay on the east elevation, including the stone and terra cotta entrance surround; the non-historic aluminum doorway with sidelights, transoms, and recessed doors; the terra cotta window surrounds; and the terra cotta scroll and oculus at the arched parapet.

South Elevation

The 1964 and 1992 additions obscure most of the rear (south) elevation *(Photo 3, 5)*. The upper three stories of the west end of the south elevation remain visible above the 1992 block. The two bays exhibit the same fenestration pattern and ornament as Bays 6 and 7 on the west elevation. Only one such bay is visible at the east end of the south elevation. The hyphen connecting to the 1964 block covers the adjacent bay to the west. The south elevation of the gymnasium block has an irregular pattern of bays containing punched openings and non-historic windows. The westernmost bay of the gymnasium block has tripartite windows at each story. The remaining bays to the east each have six single windows on the second story and three tripartite windows on the first story.

Dimension stone clads the one-story block containing the historic boiler room. The boiler room connects to the southwest corner of the main building.

The four-story 1964 addition connects to the southeast corner while the two-story 1992 addition connects to the southwest corner of the 1908 block.

Interior

The double-loaded corridors have a U-shaped plan surrounding the central two-story auditorium and stacked gymnasiums *(Figure 12. First Floor Plan)*. Classrooms and offices of various sizes line the corridors. Lightwells flank the east and west sides of the auditorium, providing natural light into both the auditorium and the side corridors. Historic stairwells adjacent to the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners of the auditorium access each floor. Although the building has been vacant for several years, the school is in excellent condition. The historic configurations and finishes are largely intact.

While the raised basement is fully designed and occupied, and is often at grade, steep stairs lead up from the entrances on the north, east, and west elevations to the first floor *(Figure 11. Ground Floor Plan)*. Polished marble panels clad the walls and one-inch ceramic tile clads the floor of the narrow vestibule at the main north entrance. Historic wood and glazed single and paired doors mirror the pattern of the exterior doors and lead from the vestibule to the wide stairwell of the grand entrance *(Photo 11)*. White glazed brick clads the walls up to the first floor. Polished marble panels form a wainscot at the first floor. The marble also forms the base for the pilasters that divide the east and west walls into three bays. Applied molding ornaments the plaster walls above the wainscot. Dentil molding and wide crown molding ornament the coffered ceiling. An elaborate wood frame with three large multi-light wood windows fills the north wall above the vestibule entrance. Plaster ornament that mimics the coquillage and scroll brackets on the exterior above the entrance tops the tall entablature of the window frame. Historic wood and glazed single doors flank the paired doors that open to the main corridor on the first floor.

The first floor corridors exhibit a higher level of finish than those above and below *(Photo 12)*. The main east-west corridor on the first floor is more than twenty feet wide and has high ceilings. One-inch ceramic tile covers the floor. Bands of black, green, and golden yellow tile frame large fields of white tile *(Figure 5)*. A white and beige glazed brick wainscot clads the painted plaster walls between the polished marble-clad pilasters. The pilasters have plaster egg and dart capitals. Non-historic acoustical tile grids cover the historic plaster ceiling between the plaster-clad concrete beams. Non-historic pendant light fixtures hang from the dropped ceiling. Historic and non-historic wooden display cases intermittently line the wall. Banks of metal lockers set on concrete bases line the corridor walls.

Corridors on the ground level, second floor, and third floor have less ornate finishes than the first floor. Polished concrete floors are scored to create a border and a diamond pattern. Beige and brown glazed brick wainscot ornaments the plaster walls. Pilasters at the beams have simple molding at the capitals. Non-historic dropped ceilings cover the historic plaster ceilings between the concrete beams.

Six sets of paired non-historic wood slab doors with tall historic wood frames and transoms access the main level of the auditorium on the south side of the main corridor, across from the north entrance *(Photo 12)*. Painted wood or drywall panels fill the transoms. Historic room entrances line the corridor walls in an irregular pattern depending upon the width of the room. The entrances retain their historic wood frames, although the wood slab doors are non-historic. The transom openings are infilled with painted drywall and marble thresholds mark the room entrances.

Non-historic drywall partitions erected in the 1990s renovation enclose the historic stairwells at the east and west corners of the corridor to create a fire-rated enclosure. While these partitions do encroach on the width of the corridor, it remains roughly sixteen feet wide. The stairwells have brown glazed brick walls with windows that open to the lightwells *(Photo 13)*. Window openings in the northwest stair were infilled when the lightwell was converted to storage and mechanical space on the first floor. Ceramic tile mosaics fill these openings. The three-quarter-turn steel stairs have metal picket railings with carved wood handrails. An elevator shaft was constructed within the west lightwell, accessible from the west corridor.

The auditorium retains many of its historic finishes and features *(Photo 14)*. The sloped hardwood floor is in good condition. Rows of wooden auditorium seats with ornate wrought iron frames are extant, although pieces are missing from many seats. The plaster walls have a simple plaster wainscot. Two-story fluted pilasters with highly elaborate Corinthian capitals ornament the walls below a tall entablature with wide dentils and thick crown molding. The Caduceus of Hermes is depicted at the center of each capital symbolizing an association with the god of transitions, invention, trade, and commerce *(Figure 6)*. The raised stage occupies the south end of the auditorium. An elaborate plaster proscenium frames the rectangular opening. Plain medallions alternating with a stylized plant motif ornament the proscenium. The curved stage projects into the seating area while low stairs access the stage from the east and west sides. The deep stage has wood floors and plaster walls. Windows in the east and west walls admit natural light from the two adjacent lightwells. Non-historic acoustical tiles cover the plaster ceiling between the ornate plaster-covered beams. A tiered concrete balcony on three sides of the auditorium has a historic metal railing with iron tie-rods attached to the ceiling at regular intervals. Six sets of paired entrances with non-historic wood slab doors access the balcony from the main corridor on the second floor. A non-historic projector room with drywall partitions and two large fixed windows rises from a concrete slab at the center of the balcony.

Two small gymnasiums are stacked on top of one another immediately south of the auditorium. The lower-level gym, accessible from the ground level, has wood flooring, brown glazed brick walls partially covered with acoustical panels, and exposed concrete and steel framing at the ceiling *(Photo 15)*. Substantial steel I-beam girders enable the long span. Smaller steel secondary beams provide additional support. Large windows set high in the south wall admit natural light into the space. The upper-level gym, accessible from the second floor, has wood flooring, plaster walls, and a non-historic dropped ceiling *(Photo 16)*. Three flat Howe steel trusses span the width of the gymnasium. Windows in the south wall and two large skylights admit natural light into the gymnasium.

Classrooms and offices vary greatly in size. Most retain their historic configurations *(Photo 17)*. Where non-historic partitions were erected, historic door frames are maintained in the corridor with the openings infilled with painted drywall. Non-historic carpet or VCT flooring covers the historic wood flooring. Textured plaster walls have wood baseboards and picture rail. There are no historic chalkboards or wood frames extant. Non-historic white boards are attached to the walls as needed. Non-historic dropped ceilings with acoustical tile grids cover the historic plaster ceilings. Window openings have wood trim and sills. Non-historic four-light aluminum replacement windows fill the historic openings.

1964 BLOCK
Exterior

The 1964 block connects to the southeast corner of the 1908 block *(Photo 2, Figure 11)*. The rectangular four-story block has a flat roof. A recessed four-story hyphen provides a direct connection between the corridors of the two blocks. Brownish-red brick clads the north half of the hyphen above the metal double entrance. Cast stone panels clad the elevator shaft at the south half of the hyphen. Materials and fenestration differentiate three horizontal bands on the primary, east façade, creating horizontal as well as vertical symmetry. Concrete columns divide the first story into four bays. Each bay has a high band of ribbon windows set atop a stucco-clad concrete block wall. The middle horizontal band is two stories and has brownish-red brick cladding with no ornament. Fenestration divides this section of the façade into three bays with two punched window openings in each. The wide brick mullions between the windows in each bay align with the concrete columns on the first story. These tall punched openings have a lower hopper sash and two fixed upper sashes. Short concrete columns divide the ribbon windows of the top story into four bays. Narrow one-over-one metal windows are similar to the ribbon windows on the first story. A continuous stucco band caps the façade.

The south façade has three irregular bays *(Photo 3, 5, 9)*. The east bay has the same façade treatment in each of the horizontal bands as the east elevation. Only the ribbon windows of the top band continue while the other stories have blank walls. Brick clads the center bay. Small square windows pierce the wall at each story. A single metal slab door accesses this slightly projecting stair tower. The west bay has a single window on the first story. The wide opening has paired multi-light non-historic windows. Narrow vents with metal louvered panels pierce the wall at the first and second stories. The single bay on the north elevation is similar in materials and fenestration to the east bay of the south elevation.

The west façade, above the 1992 addition, is brick. Single and paired punched openings pierce the façade. A small square one-story block clad in brick and stucco fills the space between the 1908 and 1992 blocks.

Interior

The central corridor of the 1964 block connects directly to the south end of the east corridor of the 1908 block *(Figure 11)*. Paired metal fire doors separate the two sections of the corridor. The corridors have VCT flooring, concrete walls, and dropped ceilings with acoustical tile grids *(Photo 18)*. Metal lockers line the corridors. Rectangular classrooms of various sizes line the corridors on all floors and have finishes identical to the corridors *(Photo 19)*. Classroom entries have metal frames and non-historic metal doors with small glazed panels. Window openings have simple concrete returns. Non-historic whiteboards attach to several walls in each classroom. Enclosed stairwells at the north and south ends of the block have steel frames with concrete treads and metal railings. An elevator at the north end of the block on the east side of the corridor accesses all floors. The historic configuration of corridors and classrooms is intact. The minimal finishes are in good condition.

1992 BLOCK

Exterior

The L-shaped 1992 block connects to both the 1908 and the 1964 blocks. The building exhibits elements of the Post Modern style. Courses of square buff brick alternate with narrow bands of brown brick to clad the first story *(Photo 3, 4, 9)*. An oversized limestone water table caps the first story. Cast stone panels clad the second story. Narrow recesses between the panels form horizontal bands on all elevations. On

the west elevation, six bays in the center of the first story each contain a single punched window opening. Three concrete columns support the roof above the deep recess in the second story and create four bays. Multi-light glazed panels form the flat recessed wall centered on the façade.

A single entrance with a transom and adjacent window pierce the first-story wall at the far west end of the asymmetrical south elevation. Four-light fixed windows fill the six bays at the east end of the first story. Three columns again support the roof over the recessed area on the second story. The easternmost column supports the corner of the building and the recessed area continues on the east elevation. A curved glass wall comprised of tinted glazing fills the recess on both elevations. The columns form three bays each on the south and east elevations. A metal brise soleil covers portions of the recessed glazing, specifically where the curve is closest to the perimeter. Four-light fixed windows fill the five bays on the first story of the east elevation.

A two-story block clad in red brick connects the northeast corner of the 1992 addition to the southwest corner of the 1964 addition *(Photo 3)*. The south elevation of this block has two bays. The west bay has an aluminum slab door with sidelights and tall transoms on the first story. A narrow metal spandrel panel separates the entry from the tall fixed window above. The east bay has a band of tinted windows on the first story and a single nine-light fixed window on the second story. A metal brise soleil covers both bays.

An elevated enclosed walkway connects the first story of the 1908 block to the second story of the 1992 block *(Photo 5)*. The connection utilizes one bay in the south elevation of the 1908 block. Seven floor-to-ceiling multi-light tinted fixed windows line the enclosed walkway. Cast stone panels clad the remainder of the walkway.

Interior

The two-story L-shaped block connects to the center of the west side of the 1964 block. It connects to the south end of the east corridor of the 1908 block on the first floor via an enclosed walkway *(Photo 20)*. The upper floor of this block is roughly level with the first floor of the 1908 block. The lower floor of the 1992 block is level with the basement of the 1964 block. The walkway has VCT flooring and dropped ceilings with glazed brick wainscot and painted concrete walls on the east, a glazed west wall with six-light fixed tinted windows. The 1992 block contains classrooms on both floors, the kitchen and cafeteria on the lower floor, and the library on the upper floor. Corridors and the cafeteria have VCT flooring, vinyl base, and dropped ceilings. The classrooms and library have carpet, vinyl base, and dropped ceilings *(Photo 21)*. Drywall partitions divide the space. A regular grid of columns and concrete beams interrupt the open spaces of both the library and cafeteria.

INTEGRITY

The Westport High School is an excellent example of the High School sub-type of the Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School defined in the MPDF. It retains integrity in all areas, as required for this sub-type. The building fronts E. 39th Street in the same location in which it was originally constructed. It retains integrity of setting, surrounded by residential development on the south and west, Gillham Road and Park on the east, and Westport Junior High School on the north. The school retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship, with its decorative terra cotta and stone ornament on the exterior and

historic configuration of corridors, classrooms, and specialty spaces on the interior. Large expanses of windows, reinforced concrete construction, and wide corridors and stairwells are features common to Progressive Era schools and are fully extant at Westport High School. The school retains integrity of feeling and association. The building continues to clearly communicate its historic function and the periods in which it was constructed and modified.

Exterior alterations to the 1908 building include the replacement of doors and windows within their historic masonry openings. Interior alterations include the addition of dropped ceilings to conceal the historic plaster ceiling and the installation of new flooring over the historic floors. These alterations are common in Kansas City schools and do not compromise the integrity of the building. Two additions provided space to expand the school's curriculum during the last half of the twentieth century. The 1964 and 1992 additions connect to the rear of the 1908 building and respect the massing and materials of the older building. Neither addition extends above the roofline or beyond the plane of the east and west elevations of the 1908 block. While the additions are visible from every elevation except the front due to the size of the property and the siting of the building, they do not compromise the integrity of the resource.

The 1964 block is an intact example of a high school addition that exhibits the characteristics of a Modern Era High School defined in the MPDF while remaining compatible with the 1908 building. As is typical of the property type, the 1964 addition has a flat room, banded windows, and no applied ornament. The 1964 addition meets the registration requirements for the High School/Junior High School subtype of the Modern Era School property type defined in the MPDF, including the retention of its historic form and massing; exterior materials fenestration patterns, and interior configuration of corridors and stairwells. It retains all aspects of integrity on the interior and exterior, and clearly conveys its historic function and the period in which it was constructed. As a contributing addition, the four-story 1964 block references the three-part façade organization of the 1908 block while exhibiting some of the basic tenets of Modern Movement design: banded fenestration and a distinct lack of ornament.

The 1992 addition is not visible from the front of the property due to its massing and location. Although it is significantly less than fifty years of age and is therefore a non-contributing addition, the massing, design, materials, and location of the 1992 addition are compatible with the 1908 building and the 1964 addition and do not compromise the integrity of the overall building.

SUMMARY

Westport High School at 315 E. 39th Street in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri is locally significant under Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. It fits within the historic contexts and meets the registration requirements for the property types defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970" (MPDF). It is the earliest example of the High School sub-type of the Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School in the Kansas City Missouri School District (District), as defined in the MPDF. The grand building was designed by District architect Charles A. Smith and built in 1908 as Kansas City's first new high school in the twentieth century. As such, the design incorporated all of the features intended to support Progressive Era educational philosophy and practice. The building has integrity of the features and finishes that characterize this property type. As described in the historic contexts that discuss the architecture and educational philosophy of Progressive Era High Schools, Westport High School has wide corridors and stairwells to facilitate egress, large expanses of windows and mechanical systems to improve ventilation, and spaces designated for specific activities or courses of study, such as the integral auditorium and gymnasium. The building employed reinforced concrete technology to create a fireproof structure. In 1964, the Bennett Construction Company built the four-story brick and concrete addition at the southeast corner of the 1908 building. The 1964 addition is an example of a Modern Era School defined in the MPDF, and likewise meets the registration requirements for this property type, including the retention of its historic form, materials, and fenestration patterns. Westport High School served its historic function for over one hundred years. Physical changes include the replacement of windows and doors, and the construction of the compatible addition in 1992 at the rear elevation, which is a common alteration that does not compromise the integrity of the building or its ability to communicate its historic function. The period of significance is 1908 and 1964, the dates of construction for the main building and the contributing southeast addition.

ELABORATION

PROPERTY HISTORY

The City of Westport established its first school in 1852, in accordance with state law. Operating out of the basement of a Methodist church, the school offered masculine and feminine departments with courses in English literature, music, and ancient languages as well as grammar, arithmetic, history, algebra, philosophy, and geometry.[5] Westport High School, as an institution, dates to 1885 when the nascent town first constructed a high school, again in accordance with state law. The two-story Romanesque Revival school building stood at the northeast corner of 39th and Warwick, just one block west and across 39th Street from the present building *(Figure 1)*. Construction of a designated high school reflects the growth of Westport in the thirty-three years since the first school was established in 1852.[6] The Kansas City Missouri School District annexed small school districts as the city expanded throughout the nineteenth century. The Kansas City School District annexed the Westport School District on May 12,

[5] J. Lykins, March 7, 1854. Republished in "Westport High School Seventy-Four Years Ago," *Kansas City Star*, December 7, 1928, Mounted Clippings: Schools, Public, Westport High, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
[6] "Westport High School Laying Cornerstone," *Kansas City Times*, June 8, 1907, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

1899, its largest annexation to that date.[7] The District utilized the existing Westport High School in the first few years of the twentieth century, although the District quickly recognized the need for larger facilities.

The plans for a new state-of-the-art high school were already announced and the foundation work begun when a fire broke out in the old Westport High School on April 14, 1907.[8] The building was significantly damaged, but not destroyed, highlighting the importance of fireproof construction and the desperate need for a new facility. While students attended classes at other District high schools, the District repaired the old building while feverishly constructing the nominated property. Kansas City Building Department issued a permit for a new school at the southeast corner of the 39th Street and McGee on August 26, 1907.[9] Dubbed "The School of Magnificent Distances" for its placement upon the hill, the new Westport High School opened in August 1908 to great fanfare *(Figure 3)*.[10] The District continued to use the repaired old Westport High School as a ward school for several years *(Figure 2)*.[11] To meet enrollment demands and changes in educational philosophy with the development of the junior high school program, the District constructed Westport Junior High School in 1923, located across E. 39th Street from the nominated property.[12]

Throughout the following decades, the District modified the property to meet the educational and athletic needs of its students. Enrollment increased substantially from the early 1950s to the mid-1960s. Due to the post-World War II baby boom coupled with the District's voluntary desegregation following the 1954 landmark United States Supreme Court decision *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, enrollment rose from 1,489 students in 1955 to 1,967 students in 1964.[13] In the ten years following desegregation, integration at Westport High School was minimal. The District policy of neighborhood attendance boundaries was futile in promoting desegregation when Kansas City neighborhoods were often informally segregated by race. The African American student population increased from one (0.07%) in 1955 to 168 (8.5%) in 1964.[14] Despite the limits of desegregation, the overall student population increased 32%. With the school at maximum capacity, the District began purchasing residential lots immediately south of the 1908 building on the east side of the block in the early 1960s. Bennett Construction Company of Kansas City cleared the lots and built the roughly 122' x 115' addition in 1964 to provide fifteen to twenty additional classrooms.

The District invested a substantial amount in upgrading its facilities in the late 1980s and early 1990s as a result of the legal battle to desegregate and integrate the school district.[15] By 1990, the District purchased

[7] "Kansas City Missouri School Districts: Growth by Annexations," Kansas City, Missouri School District, n.d., Courtesy of the Kansas City Missouri School District Archives. While this map is not dated, it was completed after the annexation of the Pitcher-Fairview District in 1958.
[8] "Westport High Burned" *Kansas City Times*, April 15, 1907, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
[9] City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Office, Building Permit # 8557 (August 26, 1907).
[10] "Westport High," *Kansas City Star*, August 21, 1908, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
[11] The District demolished the old Westport High School building following the completion of the George B. Longan School at 3421 Cherry Street in 1954.
[12] Westport High School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 15, 2014.
[13] The School District, Kansas City, Missouri, Office of the Superintendent. "Report on the progress of desegregation in the Kansas City Public Schools, 1955-1970." no page. Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.
[14] Ibid.
[15] Elizabeth Rosin, Rachel Nugent, and Lauren Rieke, National Register of Historic Places, "Lincoln High School," 2013, 8-20, 8-21.

the remaining residential lots on the block and on the two adjacent blocks to the east, and razed the existing buildings. The District filed a new plat, Westport Plat, in 1992 and erected a new addition to the school.[16] The 1992 addition on the southwest end of the building contained several classrooms and office, and a library and cafeteria designed to accommodate late twentieth century technology. The District also constructed a track and football field with concrete bleachers on the south half of the lot. Both of these additions respected the historic character of the existing school, were connected in ways that minimized alterations to the 1908 building, and allowed the Westport High School to continue to fulfill its mission to educate area students.

PROGRESSIVE ERA ARCHITECTURE

The 1908 portion of Westport High School exemplifies the Progressive Era High School property type defined in the MPDF. The building retains its original form and massing, flat roof, exterior and interior materials, exterior and interior recreation areas, historic fenestration patterns, and interior configuration of corridors and stairwells.[17] The 1964 addition is significant in its own right and the 1992 addition is sympathetic in its connection to the 1908 block and does not compromise the integrity of the property.[18]

As described in the context "Public Education in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970)," both the City of Kansas City and the District expanded greatly at the turn of the twentieth century. With the annexation of Westport in 1899 and the expansion of the city limits to 77th Street in 1909, student enrollment increased at a rapid pace, challenging the District's ability to meet the needs of the population. Although annexed areas had their own schools, they were often outdated or not equipped to handle the number of students associated with new residential developments. Within that first decade of the twentieth century, the District proposed numerous bond issues to address the need for improved facilities. Under these bond issues, the District constructed five new elementary schools, several building additions, and one high school: the new Westport High School.[19]

Westport High School retains the physical features of an early twentieth century school described in the context "Public School Buildings in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970)." The school exhibits common features popularized in educational facility plan books, including its three-story height, symmetrical front façade, flat roof, and U-shaped floor plan with double-loaded corridors.[20] A general concern for student safety and an emphasis on better hygiene contributed to the selection of materials, the choice of construction methods, and the layout of spaces. Prompted by a fire that significantly damaged the Old Westport High School (built in 1885 at 39th and Warwick), the Kansas City School Board fire inspection committee visited facilities throughout the District to make recommendations for improved fire safety.[21] Charles A. Smith developed standard features and processes to address these concerns, specifically the use of poured concrete and solid masonry construction and wide corridors and stairwells.[22]

[16] Jackson County, Missouri Recorder of Deeds, Plat, Book 38, Page 75, March 5, 1992, http://records.jacksongov.org, (accessed July 22, 2014). The plat contains three lots: Lot 1 is for Westport Junior High School on the north side of E. 39th Street; Lot 2 is the parking lot located west of Westport High School across McGee Street; Lot 3 is for Westport High School. Oak Street between 39th and 40th streets was vacated during this process.
[17] Elizabeth Rosin and Rachel Nugent, Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," 2012, F-50.
[18] Ibid, F-51.
[19] Ibid, E-16.
[20] Ibid, E-28-29.
[21] Ibid, E-31.
[22] Ibid, E-31.

Westport High School, intended as a regional higher education center, is a grander version of the elementary schools Charles Smith designed for the District beginning in 1900. It has the same symmetrical five-part front façade as Smith's contemporary elementary schools, although the overall size, number of stories, and level of ornament distinguish it as a high school and convey the value the District placed on education.[23] One of the striking differences between Westport High School and its elementary counterparts is that Smith included the ornate auditorium and stacked gymnasiums as part of the original design, unlike elementary schools where the auditorium and gymnasium were constructed years later as an addition. Historically the high school property did not include any outdoor recreation areas, emphasizing the importance of interior spaces such as the auditorium and gymnasiums *(Figure 4)*.

As with the elementary schools scattered throughout the city, the elaborate terra cotta ornament on the façade of Westport High School is secondary to the form of the building. Although the Jacobethan ornament is illustrative of the style of institutional architecture popular at the time of construction, the form and the plan most thoroughly express the tenets of Progressive Era educational philosophy. Large expanses of tall windows admitted natural light and promoted proper ventilation of classrooms. Multiple wide stairwells constructed of solid masonry and reinforced concrete facilitated egress from anywhere in the building in case of emergency. The variety of classrooms and shops devoted to specific courses of study reflect the change in educational philosophy from the previous century. Progressive Era educational theory promoted learning by doing, rather than rote memorization, thus requiring the designation of classrooms for teaching specific subjects.[24] While elementary schools offered courses in manual training and domestic science, high school students honed their academic and vocational skills. In drawing students regionally from a number of elementary schools, high schools required facilities to accommodate a larger number of students and a wider variety of courses with more in-depth study, such as biology, chemistry, mathematics, foreign languages, cooking, sewing, and blacksmithing.

Westport High School, the District's first new high school constructed in the twentieth century, clearly communicates the tenets of Progressive Era educational philosophy. Newspaper articles published upon its completion heralded the school as embodying "the most advanced ideas in school architecture and the most approved methods of school construction, and reflect[ing] in every detail the modern recognition of every factor involving the health, bodily training and helpful surroundings of the boys and girls in the class rooms of the public schools."[25] In addition to the fireproof concrete construction and masonry and metal stairwells, the facility included sixty classrooms, twenty-foot-wide corridors, a 1,400-seat auditorium, gymnasium, library, study hall, hospital, housekeeping suite, mechanical and domestic science departments, and laboratories, clearly identifying the building as an institution of higher learning.[26]

MODERN ERA ARCHITECTURE

Constructed within the period of significance, the 1964 addition reflects the evolution of public school architecture as the District responded to changes in capacity. As described in the context "Public Education in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970): Modern Era (1950-1970)," the post-World War II baby

[23] Ibid, F-50.
[24] Ibid, E-16.
[25] "Westport High School," *Kansas City Times*, June 19, 1908, Mounted Clippings: Schools, Public, Westport High, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
[26] Ibid.

boom combined with an expansion of the city limits and the redistribution and increased enrollment of African American students following desegregation forced the District to regularly evaluate and update its facilities throughout the late 1950s and early 1960s.[27] Being a large high school, Westport accommodated the growing student population until the early 1960s. The District constructed the addition to Westport High School on the tail end of a building campaign that, through two bond issues in 1958 and 1962, produced six new buildings and three additions.[28] As described in the context "Public School Buildings in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970): Modern Era School Buildings (1950-1970)," buildings constructed during this campaign followed national trends for Modern school buildings, including the low, rectangular massing, flat roofs, and banded windows.[29] Although the 1964 addition to Westport High School is three stories with a raised basement rather than the low single-story sprawling schools constructed at this time, the rectangular massing, flat roof, and banded windows reflect the Modern aesthetic. The tripartite façade arrangement, brick cladding, and paired windows of the middle two stories create an aesthetic compatible with the 1908 building to which it is directly connected. The 1964 addition meets the registration requirements for the High School sub-type of the Modern Era School (1950-1970), as defined in the MPDF. The addition retains its historic massing and roof form; exterior materials; fenestration patterns; and interior configuration of corridors and stairwells.

The 1992 addition also reflects the District's strategic building campaigns designed to respond to changing technology and course offerings, though it was constructed outside the period of significance. Concrete panels cladding the lower story reference the stone base of the 1908 building while the narrow enclosed walkway is minimally connected at the rear façade of the historic building. Large banded windows and oversized columns at the second story subtly illustrate the Post-Modern aesthetic popular at the time of construction. The 1992 addition, connected to the west elevation of the 1964 addition and the south elevation of the 1908 building, is sympathetic to the original design and thus does not compromise its integrity.

CONCLUSION

Westport High School at 315 E. 39th Street in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri is locally significant under Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. Constructed in 1908 with additions built in 1964 and 1992, Westport High School fits within the historic contexts and meets the registration requirements for the High School sub-types of the Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era and Modern Era School property types defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970" (MPDF). Built in 1908 as Kansas City's first new high school in the twentieth century, Westport High School incorporated all of the features that express Progressive Era educational philosophy and practice. The building has excellent integrity of the features and finishes that characterize this property type, specifically the wide corridors and stairwells to facilitate egress, large expanses of windows and mechanical systems to improve ventilation, and spaces designated for specific activities or courses of study, such as the integral auditorium and gymnasium. The 1964 addition is an example of a Modern Era School defined in the MPDF, and likewise meets the registration requirements for this property type, including the retention of its historic form, materials, and fenestration patterns. The 1992 addition is not visible from the front of the property due to its massing and location. The massing, design, materials, and location of the 1992 addition are compatible with the 1908 building and the 1964

[27] Rosin and Nugent, E-26.
[28] Ibid, E-25.
[29] Ibid, E-33.

addition and do not compromise the integrity of the overall building. Westport High School served its historic function for over one hundred years. The school retains original exterior materials and the historic configuration of corridors, classrooms, and specialty spaces on the interior. Exterior alterations, including the replacement of doors and windows within their historic masonry openings, and interior alterations, including the addition of dropped ceilings to conceal the historic plaster ceiling and the installation of new flooring over the historic floors, are common in Kansas City schools and do not compromise the integrity of the building. Westport High School continues to clearly communicate its historic educational function and the eras in which it was constructed.

Westport High School continued to serve its historic function as a high school facility through the 2009-2010 school year. The building has been vacant since 2010. The District is currently reviewing proposals to repurpose the building.

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"Westport High School Laying Cornerstone," *Kansas City Times*, June 8, 1907. Mounted Clippings: Schools, Public, Westport High, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Verbal Boundary Description
The nominated property occupies Lot 3 of Westport Plat, bounded by E. 39th Street on the north, Locust Street on the east, E. 40th Street on the south, and McGee Street on the west.

Boundary Justification
The boundary includes the parcel associated with the nominated property through 1964 and 1992 land acquisitions. The triangular lots adjacent to the northeast corner of the property are owned by the City of Kansas City and were historically undeveloped. These lots do not have any historic association with the school. The McGee Street parking lot occupies Lot 2 of Westport Plat on land acquired by the District in 1992. The parking lot does not have historic associations with the school.

Figure 1. Historic Photograph. Old Westport High School, c. 1900.
Courtesy Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Figure 2. Historic Photograph. Old Westport High School, c. 1915.
Courtesy Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

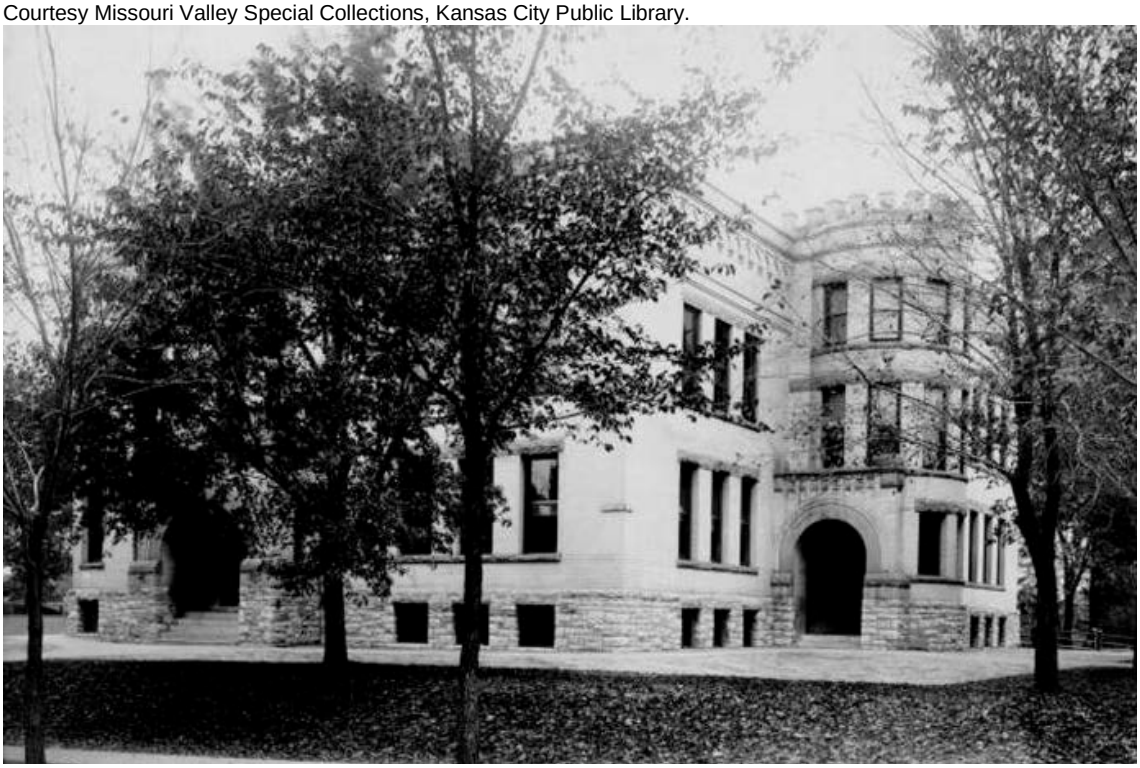


Figure 3. Historic Photograph. New Westport High School, c. 1915.
Courtesy Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Figure 4. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. 1951.

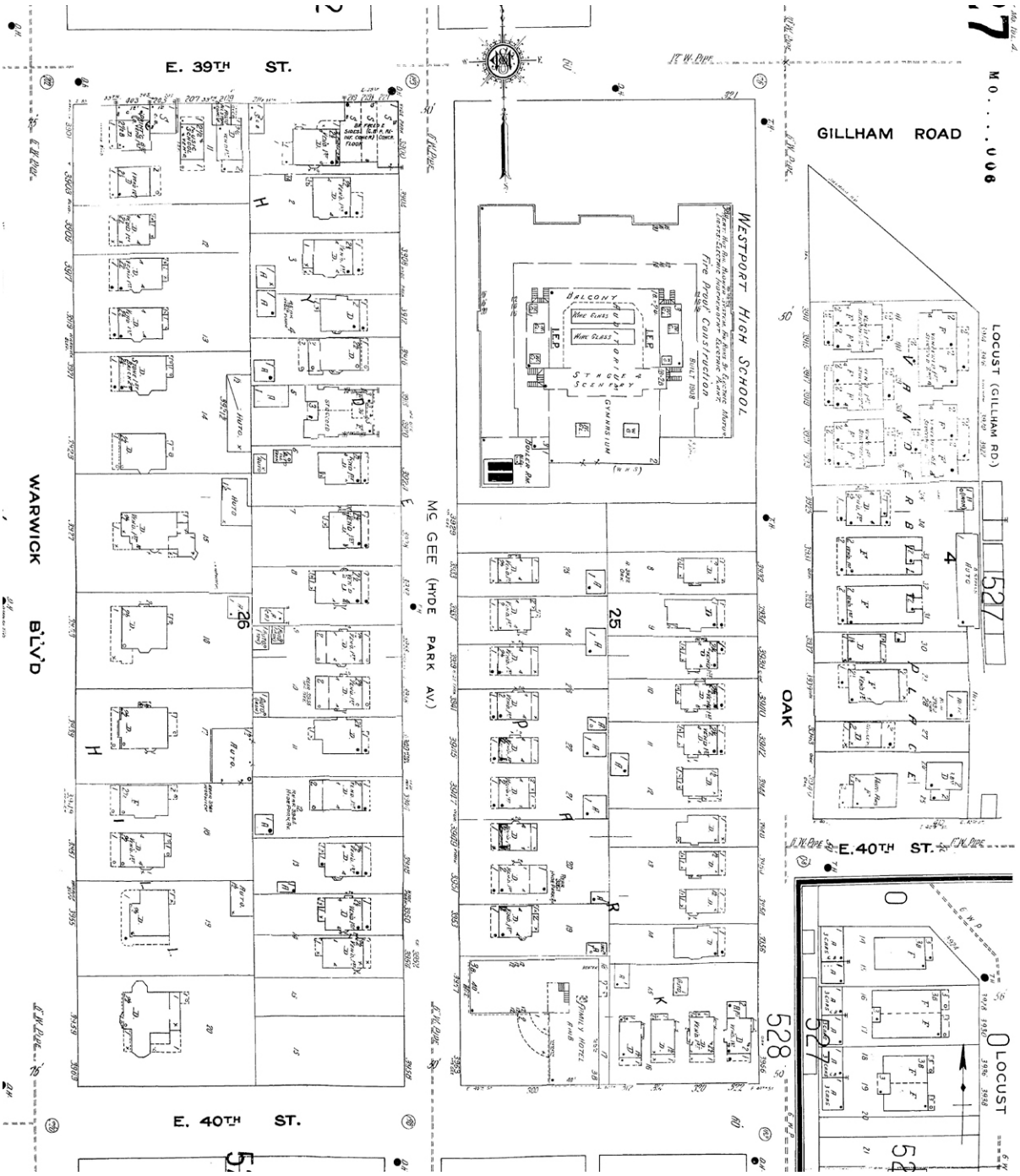


Figure 5. Detail of 1st floor corridor finishes. 2014. Finch

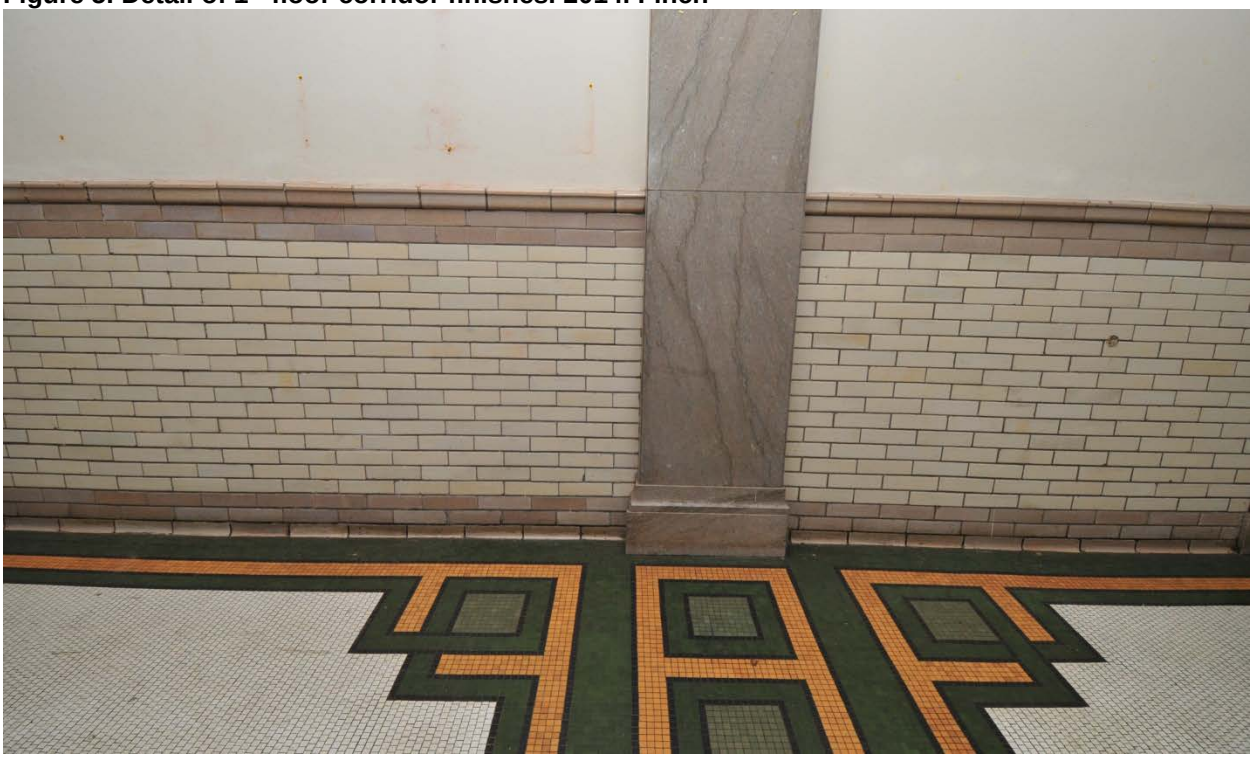


Figure 6. Detail of Auditorium pilaster capital. 2014. Finch

Figure 7. Site Map. ArcGIS 2013.

Figure 8. Context Map. ArcGIS 2013.

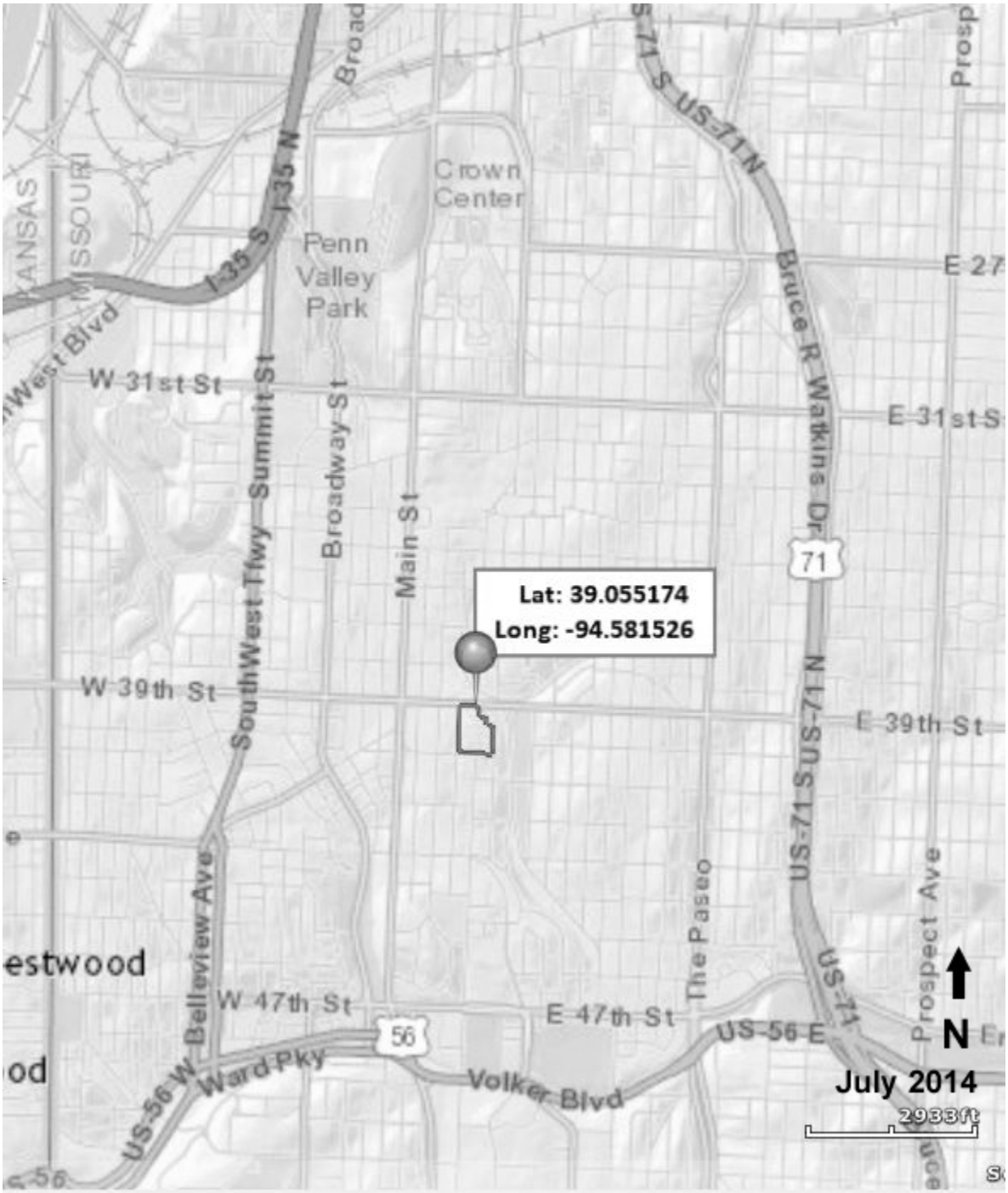


Figure 9. Chronological plan
Courtesy of the Kansas City Public School District Archives, c.1992

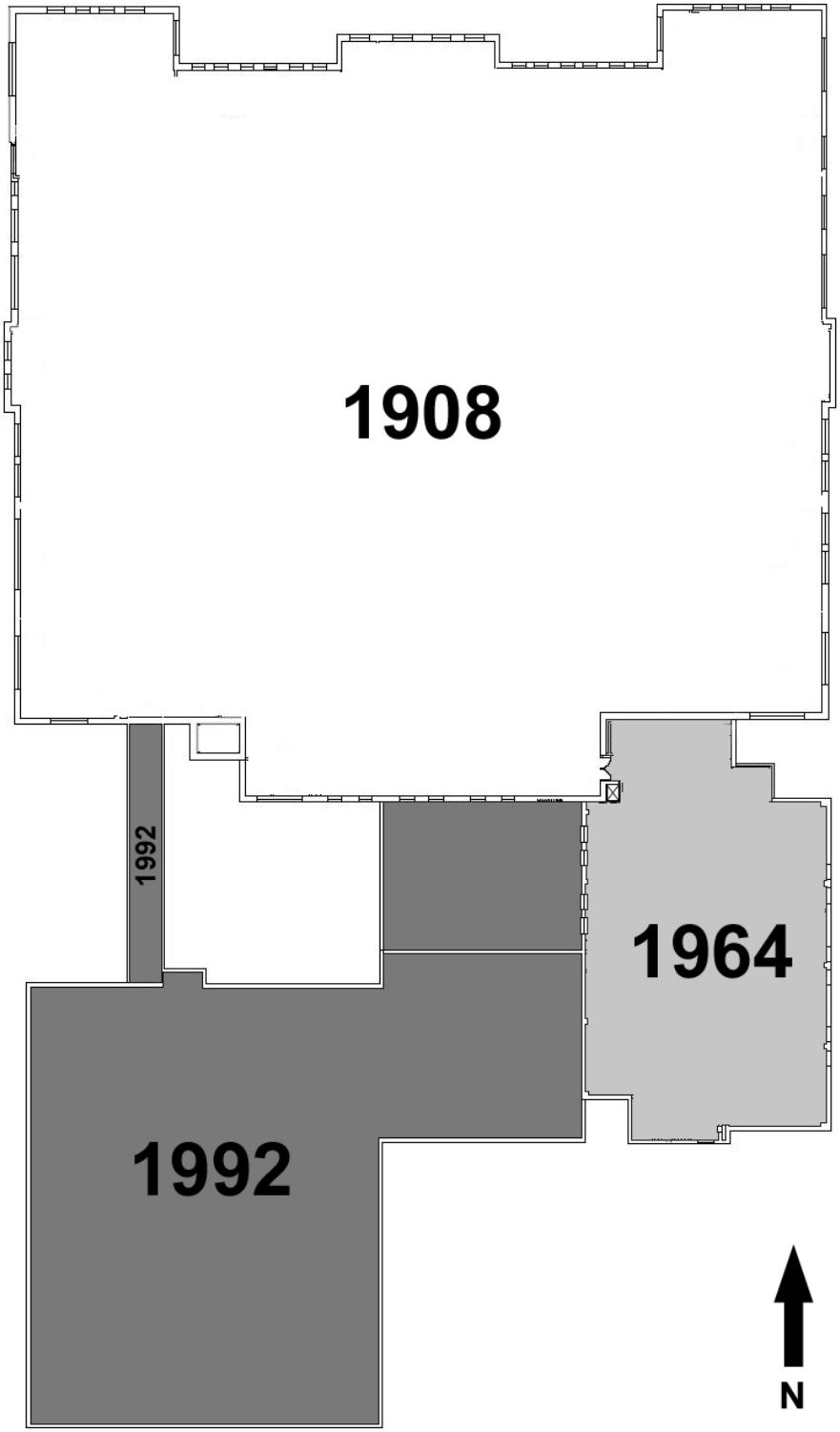


Figure 10. Photo Map: Exterior (First Floor Plan)
Courtesy of the Kansas City Public School District Archives, c.1992

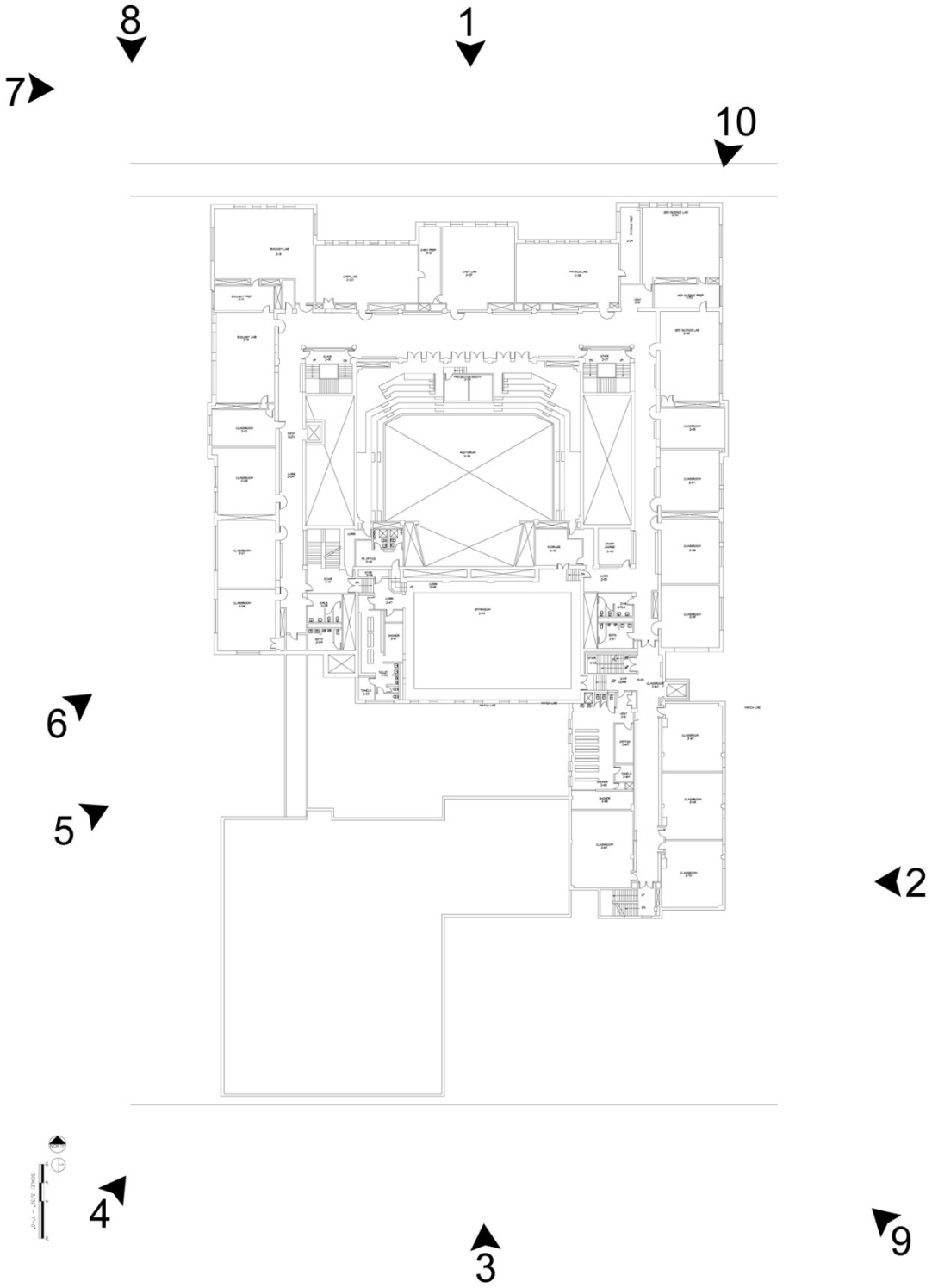


Figure 11. Photo Map and Plan: Ground Level
Courtesy of the Kansas City Public School District Archives, c.1992

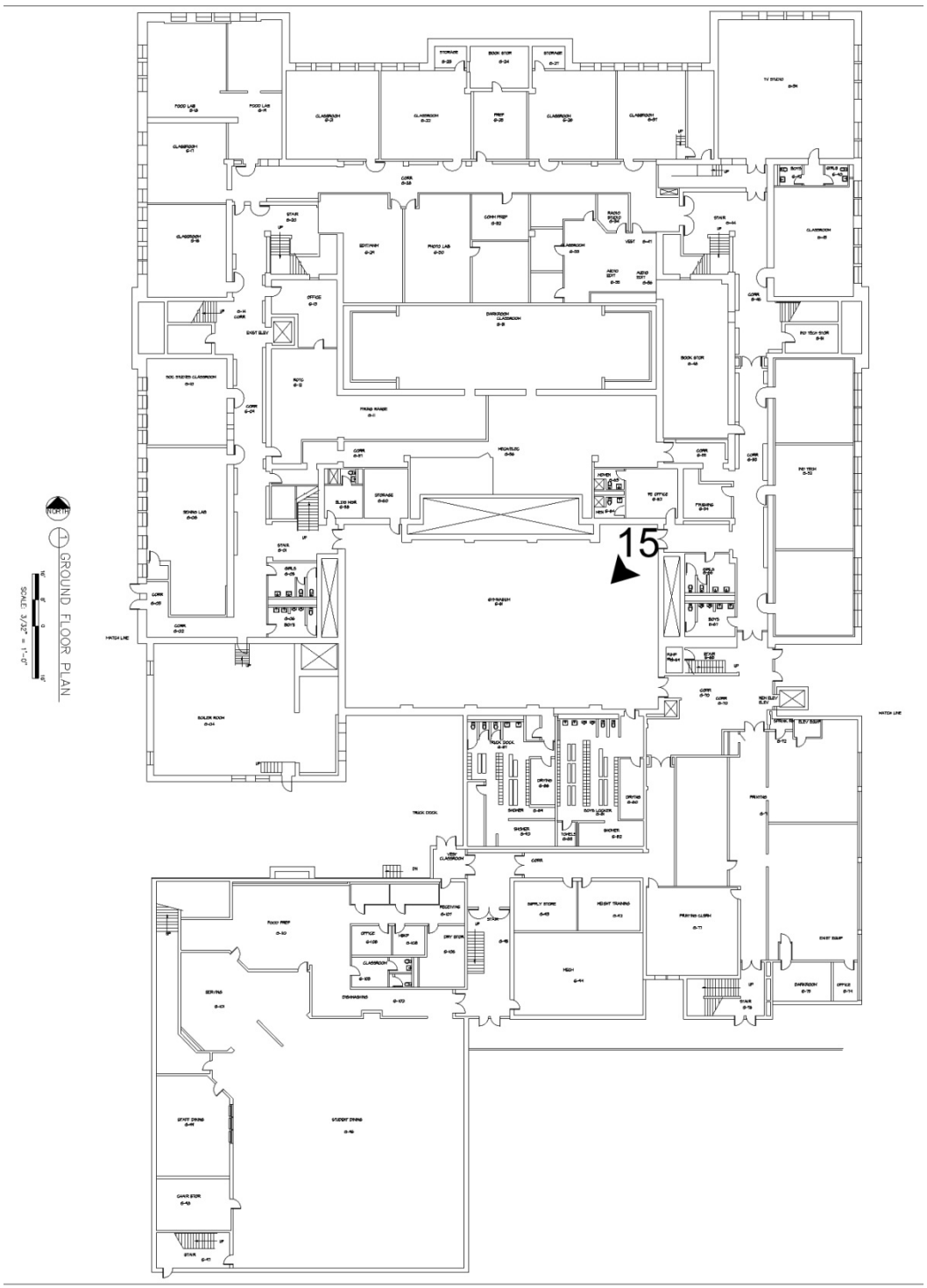


Figure 12. Photo Map and Plan: First Floor
Courtesy of the Kansas City Public School District Archives, c.1992

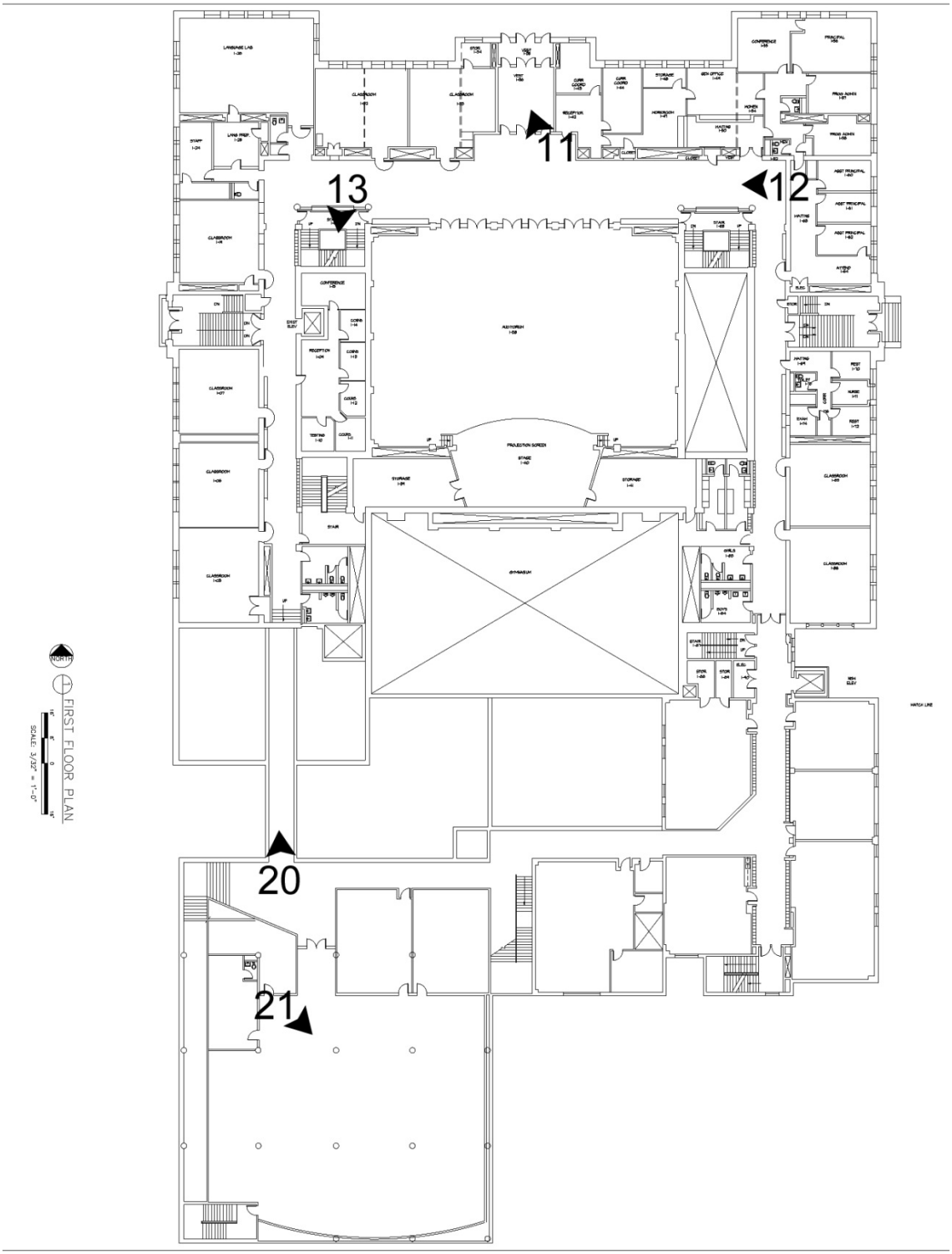


Figure 13. Photo Map and Plan: Second Floor
Courtesy of the Kansas City Public School District Archives, c.1992

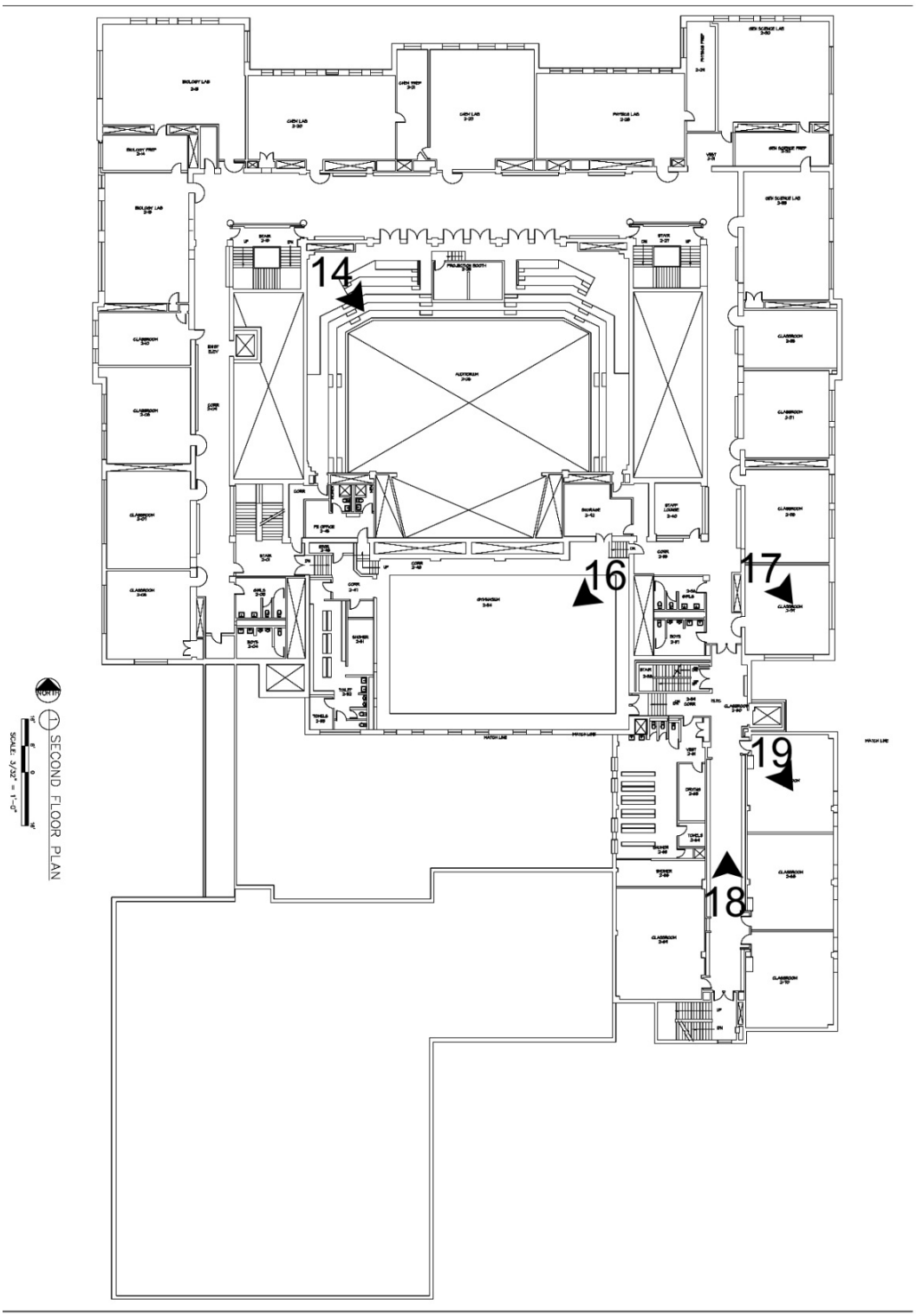
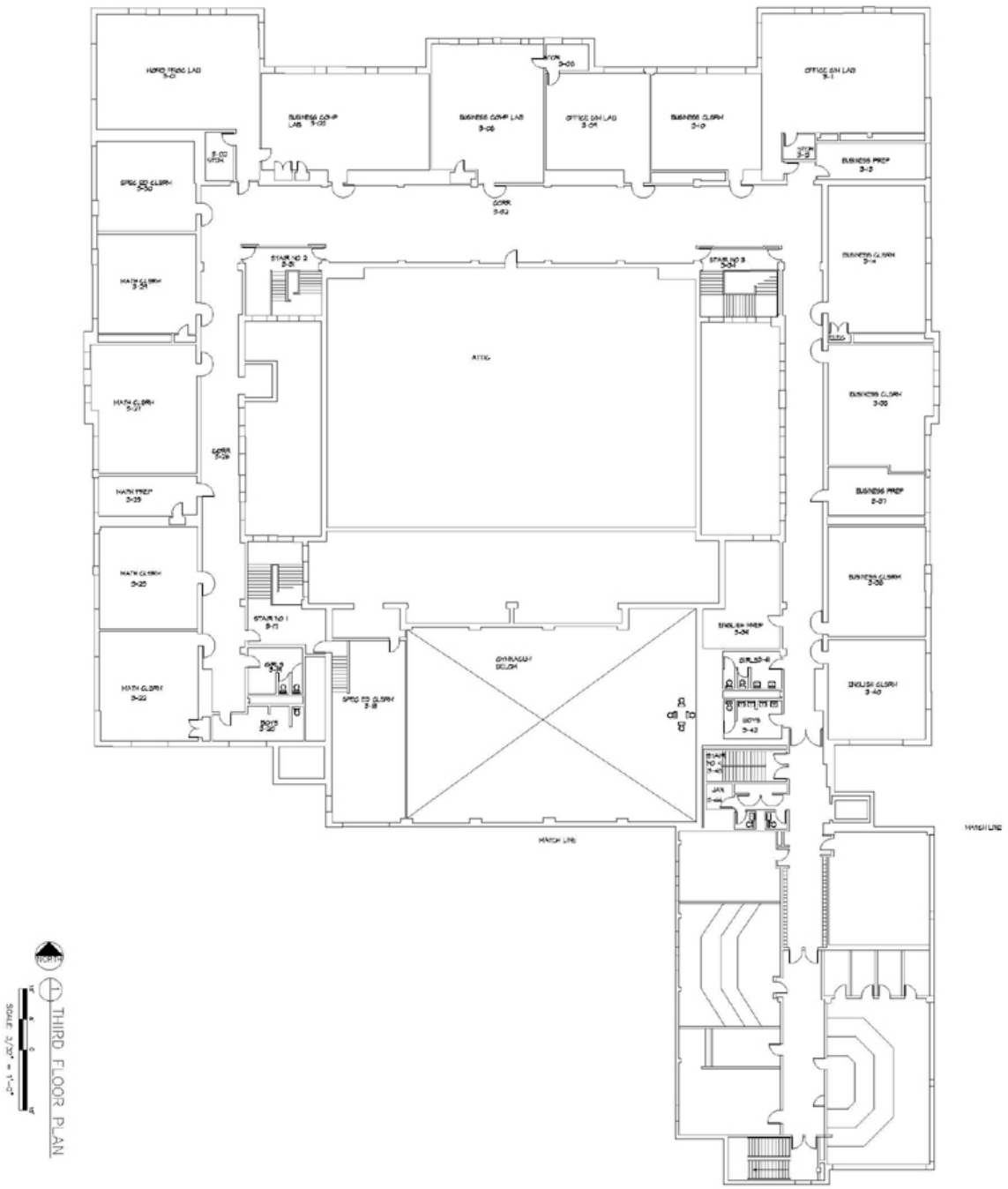


Figure 14. Plan: Third Floor
Courtesy of the Kansas City Public School District Archives, c.1992



FIRE LANE

ONE WAY

ONE WAY

EXIT

WHS

W

BONUS
FOUL
PERIOD
HOME
Room 101
Little tikes

EXIT

EXIT