



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
TDD: (804) 367-2386
www.dhr.virginia.gov

September 1, 2011

City of Charlottesville
C/O Gary O'Connell, City Manager
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Re: William H. McGuffey Primary School, City of Charlottesville

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you officially that the **William H. McGuffey Primary School** has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. The property was listed by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, on December 23, 2009.

I am sure this news is gratifying to you, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources shares in your pleasure.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Mayor Dave Norris

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Ave.
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 862-6416
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office
2801 Kensington Office
Richmond, VA 23321
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office
14415 Old Courthouse Way 2nd
Floor
Newport News, VA 23608
Tel: (757) 886-2807
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Western Region Office
Hundley Hall
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5428
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7031
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Marysaj



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-0300



L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

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September 23, 2009

Mr. Gary O'Connell
Manager, City of Charlottesville
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville, VA 22901

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2009

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Re: William H. McGuffey Primary School, City of Charlottesville

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

On Behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Board of Historic Resources has placed the **William H. McGuffey Primary School** in the Virginia Landmarks Register. The State Review Board also recommended this property for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Following final staff review, we will forward the nomination to the National Park Service, including my recommendation, along with the Board's, that the resource is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Virginia Landmarks Register includes historic landmarks, buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites which are recognized as having historical, architectural, or archaeological significance at a local, state, or national level. The **William H. McGuffey Primary School** deserves this official recognition as one of the Commonwealth's historic resources. The responsibility for preserving Virginia's irreplaceable historic resources rests ultimately with interested citizens like you. While registration does not in itself protect the property, we hope this formal recognition will provide encouragement to your continuing efforts to preserve this important part of Virginia's history.

The continuing protection and preservation of registered Virginia landmarks is of immediate concern to this office. We welcome the opportunity to serve, and it is our hope that you will inform us if we can be of assistance to you in providing any technical advice on contemplated alterations or sensitive renovations to properties.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

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Roanoke Region Office
1030 Penmar Ave., SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
Tel: (540) 857-7585
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
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Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
"A World Class City"

Department of Neighborhood Development
Services



City Hall Post Office Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Telephone 434-970-3182
Fax 434-970-3359
www.charlottesville.org

August 19, 2009

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221
ATTN: Marc Wagner

Dear Mr. Wagner,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the City of Charlottesville's Board of Architectural Review to review and comment on the nomination report to consider the McGuffey School in Charlottesville, Virginia for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

The BAR at its meeting on August 18, 2009 enthusiastically endorsed (7-0) the nomination to individually list the McGuffey School on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mary Joy Scala'.

Mary Joy Scala
Preservation and Design Planner



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-0311

August 17, 2009

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
TDD: (804) 367-2386
www.dhr.virginia.gov

Mr. Gary O'Connell
Charlottesville City Manager
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Re: William H. McGuffey Primary School, City of Charlottesville

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

At a meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2009, in the Halsey Lecture Hall at the Virginia Historical Society at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond, VA 23221, the State Review Board and the Virginia Historic Resources Board will consider the **William H. McGuffey Primary School** for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places and for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register. The national and state registers are official lists of places recognized as having architectural, archaeological, or historical significance at the local, state or national level.

Enclosed is information explaining the register programs and the process by which owners may comment or object to listing in the registers. Please send any comments or objections to us prior to the meeting date in order to be considered with the nomination. You are also welcome to attend the meeting, which will begin at 10 a.m.

If you have any questions or need additional information prior to the meeting please contact Ms. Ann Andrus in the Capital Region Preservation Office at 804-367-2323, extension 133.

Sincerely,

Marc Christian Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division

Enclosures

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Petersburg, VA 23803
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources (DHR), 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Key Points about the National and State Register Process for Property Owners

- Listing in the national and state registers is honorary. It recognizes a historic property's importance to its community, the State, and/or the Nation as well as encouraging good stewardship of the historic property.
- National and state register listings do not place restrictions on private property owners. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them, or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so.
- Under Federal and State laws, private property owners can do anything they wish with their National Register-listed property, provided that no Federal or State license, permit, or funding is involved.
- If a listed property is destroyed or its integrity is greatly altered, it is removed from the registers.
- To ensure public participation in the nomination process, property owners and local officials are notified of proposed nominations to the National Register and provided the opportunity to comment. Further details provided below. In addition, once a nomination is submitted to the National Park Service another public comment period is published in the *Federal Register*.
- Federal agencies whose projects affect a listed property must give the DHR (Virginia's State Historic Preservation Office) an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on the property. Further details provided below.
- Federal and State investment Tax Credits for rehabilitation and other provisions are available, should a property owner choose to use them. Further details provided below.
- Owners may also qualify for Federal grants for historic preservation when funding is available. Refer to the National Park Service web site for Federal grant information. Currently, Virginia has no grants available for privately owned properties.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

Established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the national historic preservation program is a partnership between the Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments; private organizations; and the public. The Act and its provisions establish the framework within which citizens plan, identify, evaluate, register, and protect significant historic and archeological properties throughout the country. Central to this framework is the NRHP--the Nation's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation, administered by the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior. Properties listed in the NRHP include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Historic places are nominated to the NRHP by nominating authorities: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), appointed by the Governor of the State in which the property is located; the Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) for properties under Federal ownership or control; or by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) if the property is on tribal lands. Anyone can prepare a nomination to the NRHP, at which time the SHPO, FPO or THPO reviews the proposed nomination, and notifies property owners and local officials of the intent to nominate. Nominations submitted through the State must first be approved by a State Review Board (SRB) before being reviewed by the NPS. The members of the SRB, who are appointed by the SHPO, use the same criteria as the National Register to evaluate properties and then recommend them to the NPS for listing in the NRHP.

The NRHP continues to reflect the desire of Americans, as expressed in the NHPA, that "the historical and cultural foundation of the nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people."

Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR)

Also in 1966, the Virginia General Assembly established the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, now the Department of Historic Resources (DHR). DHR is the State Historic Preservation Office responsible for managing the VLR, the state's official list of properties important to Virginia's history. The Historic Resources Board (HRB), appointed by the Governor of Virginia, is responsible for listing properties to the VLR. Just as the same evaluation criteria are used for the National and State registers, the same register form is also used for both the VLR and the NRHP. Nearly 2300 historic properties are listed in the VLR. This number does not include the tens of thousands of properties within each listed historic district.

List of web sites with further and more detailed information

www.cr.nps.gov/
www.cr.nps.gov/NR/
www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/nhpa1966.htm
www.dhr.virginia.gov
www.cr.nps.gov/hps/

(National Park Service main web page)
(National Register of Historic Places main web page)
(National Historic Preservation Act of 1966)
(Department of Historic Resources main web page)
(Heritage Preservation Services)

Federal and State Tax Provisions

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 revises the historic preservation tax incentives authorized by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Revenue Act of 1978, the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, and the Tax Reform Act of 1984, and, as of January 1, 1987, provides for a 20% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) with a full adjustment to basis for rehabilitating historic commercial, industrial and rental residential buildings. The former 15% and 20% ITCs for rehabilitations of older commercial buildings are combined into a single 10% ITC for commercial or industrial buildings built before 1936. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. Whether these provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner.

Owners of properties listed in the VLR may be eligible for a 25% ITC for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing and non-income producing certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental or non-rental residential buildings. Owners who rehabilitate an income-producing building listed in both the National and State registers may use both Federal and State ITCs.

Tax Credits are only available if a property owner chooses to use them and individuals should consult the appropriate local IRS office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. Refer also to 36 CFR 67 at the Heritage Preservation Services web site or to the Tax Credit Program on the DHR web site.

Results of Federal and State Listing

Historic District sponsoring organizations or local governments and owners of individually listed properties may purchase an attractive official plaque noting designation. Owners of recognized historic properties are also eligible for the Virginia Preservation Easement Program, as well as technical assistance from the staff of DHR. Professional architects, architectural historians, and archaeologists are available to provide technical guidance in the care and maintenance of buildings and sites.

Listing in the NRHP requires consideration in planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the NHPA, requires that Federal agencies allow the SHPO an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties either listed in or determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation oversees and ensures the consideration of historic properties in the Federal planning process. (Refer to 36 CFR 800 at the Heritage Preservation Services web site.) Buildings listed on the VLR may also be considered as part of a state-funded project, such as highway planning.

Listing also requires consideration in issuing a surface coal mining permit. In accordance with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977, there must be consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located. (Refer to 30 CFR 700 at the Heritage Preservation Services web site.)

Localities may have laws to encourage the preservation of their historic places. Some local governments have enacted their own identification procedures; some use listing in the National and State registers as an indicator of historic significance. State and local historic preservation programs often provide some protection against the possible harmful effects of State-funded, -licensed, or -assisted projects. Some provide limited financial assistance to owners in the form of grants, loans, or tax benefits. They may establish other protections or reviews for preservation purposes. The SHPO or local planning departments can provide more information.

Rights of Owners to Comment and/or Object to Listing

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, owners of private properties nominated to the National Register have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing. The same rule applies to the Virginia Landmarks Register listing as supported by the Code of Virginia.

Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing may submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the listing. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that party owns. If private property owners object to the proposed nomination of their property or a majority of private property owners within a proposed historic district object, then the property will not be listed. However, the SHPO shall submit the nomination to the NPS Keeper for a determination of eligibility of the property for listing in the NRHP. If the property is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to have an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property.

Any comments or objections should be sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer at the Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221 prior to the scheduled Board meeting listed in the notification letter. Notices of objection must be notarized prior to submission to the SHPO.

Letters of support or objection will be copied to the HRB and SRB members for review along with the nomination to which they refer. These letters will also be forwarded to the NPS upon their review of the nomination.

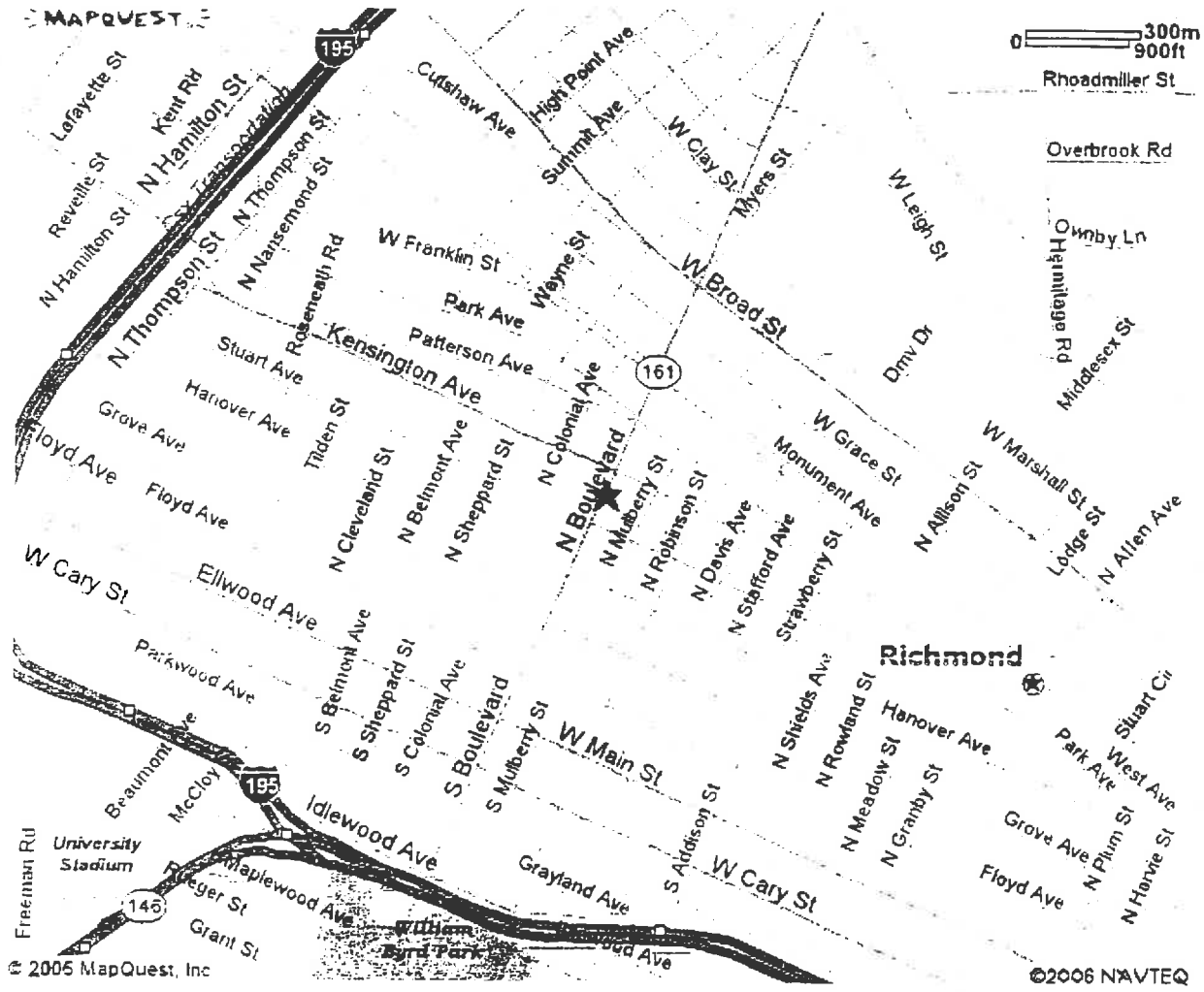


428 N Boulevard
Richmond VA
23220-3307 US

Notes:

Virginia Historical Society

Parking and entry to building in rear off
Kensington Avenue



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This map is informational only. No representation is made or warranty given as to its content. User assumes all risk of use. MapQuest and its suppliers assume no responsibility for any loss or delay resulting from such use.

Scala, Mary Joy

From: Andrus, Ann (DHR) [Ann.Andrus@dhr.virginia.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2009 12:37 PM
To: rthrift2222@hotmail.com
Cc: Scala, Mary Joy
Subject: McGuffey School National Register Nomination
Importance: High

Hello, Mr. Thrift: I have a question about the photographs for the McGuffey School nomination that will be on the September agenda for the State Review Board and the Historic Resources Board. Those black and white prints are on Endura paper, which is paper used for color photographs. Therefore to meet the National Park Service requirements, we also need a CD with digital images of the same black and white views to send to the National Register office.

Do you know whether the photo lab that developed the negatives created a disk— whether the lab scanned the negatives when they developed them? It would be very helpful if we could get a CD with those photos on it. I'd be glad to check with the photo lab about the availability of a disk if you can tell me where the processing was done.

The other option for meeting the National Register photo requirements, would be to get take some color digital images of the school – both of the exterior and of primary spaces on the interior – put those images on a disk that could be sent to us and print out **2 sets of 8 to 10 views as gray scale images (black and white)** for the nomination and send those to us as well.

If taking new digital images is not something you're prepared to do, perhaps we could see if the City of Charlottesville – through Mary Joy Scala's office – has an intern or staff member who could take some digital photographs for the nomination, put them on a disk and send us the required 2 sets of gray scale views along with the disk.

Rest assured, the nomination is scheduled for presentation to our boards at their September 17 meeting. If necessary, this office can send someone to Charlottesville to take the photographs. I simply wanted to explore other alternatives for getting the photographs before scheduling a trip since our travel is severely limited these days. Thanks for your help. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if I can be of help. My telephone number is 804-367-2323, ext. 133.

Ann M. Andrus, Director, Capital Region Office
Department of Historic Resources



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-0311

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

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www.dhr.virginia.gov

July 13, 2009

Ms. Mary Joy Scala
CLG Coordinator and Preservation and Design Planner
City of Charlottesville
Department of Neighborhood Development Services
City Hall - 610 East Market Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Re: William H. McGuffey Primary School, City of Charlottesville

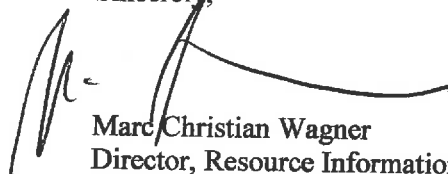
Dear Ms. Scala:

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR), Virginia's historic preservation office, is planning to present the enclosed National Register nomination for Virginia's State Review Board and Historic Resources Board for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places and inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Because this resource is within your Certified Local Government, the Architectural Review Board (ARB) is entitled to a sixty-day comment period during which the ARB may review the draft nomination and relay any comments or concerns to the DHR. I hope you will consider the enclosed nomination at your next meeting and relay your comments to us. All comments will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the Boards for consideration along with the nomination. We have scheduled the nomination for presentation to our boards on Thursday, September 17, 2009, and would like to receive your comments by that time in fulfillment of the comment period. This letter serves as notification initiating the sixty-day comment period and no further action will be taken on the nomination until we have received your comments or the full sixty-day period has passed.

I look forward to receiving your comments. Should you have any further questions regarding the nomination or the register program, please call me directly at 804-367-2323, extension 115.

Sincerely,



Marc Christian Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division

Enclosure

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803
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**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 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 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 William H. McGuffey Primary School
other names/site number William H. McGuffey Elementary School, McGuffey Art Center, DHR file # 104-0072-0300

2. Location

street & number 201 2nd Street N.W. not for publication N/A
city or town Charlottesville vicinity N/A
state VA code VA county Independent City code 540 zip code 22902

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

roof Slate

walls Brick

other Cast Stone, Wood, Limestone

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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)

- X 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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance 1916-1945

Significant Dates 1916

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Dr. James Johnson with R.E. Lee Taylor and Charles Calrow of Ferguson, Calrow, and Taylor

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources; Charlottesville-Albemarle Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.882

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	720979	4	21	2390	2			3		
											4

 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 Richard Thrift
 organization _____ date March 2009
 street & number 403 Altamont Circle #3 telephone (434) 295-7973
 city or town Charlottesville state VA zip code 22902

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Charlottesville
 street & number P.O. Box 911 telephone (434) 970-3101
 city or town Charlottesville state VA zip code 22901

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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

William H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia

Section 7 Page 1

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Fronted by a wide, sloping lawn of deciduous trees and flowering shrubbery, a city's block in length, the William H. McGuffey Primary School, built in 1915-1916 in what is now Historic Downtown Charlottesville, Virginia, is a palatial Colonial Revival edifice of two stories set upon a full basement. It has a rectangular plan, solid brick walls, and is divided into three pavilions. Its massive slate-covered roof is of moderate pitch, above which rise eight interior faux chimneys that were air vents for the forced warm air component in the original heating and ventilation scheme and two true chimneys. Single-story Tuscan porticos project from each side elevation as well as from its façade. The latter, the larger of the three, is approached by a broad flight of limestone steps. Both primary and secondary windows in all elevations have double-hung multi-light sashes. Above the side elevation doors are fixed, multi-light transoms. A highly distinctive fanlight tops the set of doors beneath the front portico. Besides doors, window sashes and their frames, the entablature too is of wood, with a fine modillion cornice. The decorative panels, the belt course, windowsills and portico columns are of cast stone. All of the building's components mentioned are original. The school exhibits fine workmanship and the use of quality, local materials. Given its size, dimensions and purpose of being, the building's exterior reflects harmony in its sense of proportion found only in the better examples of this architectural type. The same can be said for the meticulously conceived interior layout in regards to the "modern school" guidebooks of the period. Among its contemporaries, the McGuffey School building remains the least altered, both externally and internally, in almost all respects. The building sits on 1.882 acres of its original 3.5 acre lot. To the rear, at the present day parking lot's southern edge is a non-contributing plywood shed.

THE LOCATION, IN DETAIL

"Years before the Patterson site was selected," wrote Dr. James G. Johnson, the Superintendent of Schools at the time who conceived of the building, in his HISTORY OF MCGUFFEY SCHOOL, 1915-1936, "I habitually went to the northeast corner room on the third floor of the annex to Midway School and would gaze out of the window at the top of the hill and visualize the building that finally was erected on the Patterson site. These were years of hoping and struggling. Many sites were considered but I never lost my desire to have my first choice selected." The site, to quote Dr. Johnson further, "has the following points of merit: ample size, approximately three and one fifth acres, giving abundance of play space for eight hundred children; splendid elevation assuring a free circulation of air and perfect drainage; accessibility to the main thoroughfares yet in a quiet zone free from the disturbances caused by an ever increasing tide of traffic."

The McGuffey School/Art Center continues to find itself in a relatively quiet, residential park-like setting, if but one block north of the Downtown Mall and five blocks west of Courthouse Square. Its façade looks out over a semi-shaded lawn with most of its original flowering shrubs and its original sidewalks (including the wide, central "promenade") leading up to it from 2nd Street North West. It is bordered on the north by McGuffey Park, an innovative children's playground; and on the south by the mostly original Market Street storefronts, opposite a tree-shrouded embankment. To the west, beyond a cordon of trees walling off the back of the rear parking lot, the steep-pitched gable ends of the Frank Fosom Smith designed McGuffey Hill Condominiums - built in 1983 - form an unobtrusive backdrop from their setting along the cusp of McGuffey (formerly Beck's) Hill. The building is a contributing resource within the boundaries of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Courthouse District, a Virginia Landmark and National Register of Historic Places listing since 1980. It is also located within the Downtown and North Downtown Architectural Design Control District created in 2005.

THE EXTERIOR, IN DETAIL

Overview

In its Colonial Revival shell, the McGuffey School building is more Adamesque than Georgian, exhibiting a balanced "lightness" in unity overall with an adherence to classical proportions - in its parts if not in the whole. Thus the building is grand in appearance without being imposing (or ponderous) in appearance, and decidedly "non-institutional", even if it couldn't be mistaken for anything other than what it is.

Basement Level

The McGuffey School building measures 66 1/3 feet by 171 feet at basement level, its center pavilion equaling three times the length of its balanced end ones. Its front portico sits upon a closed abutment the height of the basement wall, while the side elevation porticos are more or less at ground level (at the rear elevation a closed brick porch, with a slate roof, covers the entrance to the boiler room steps). In the center pavilion there are three basement windows, with double hung 6/6 sashes, set asymmetrically apart. In the end pavilions they are

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symmetrically set and vertically aligned with the classroom windows above. There are four side elevation basement windows, two on each side of the porticos. The basement windows exhibit a ratio of 1: 1.5, and have cast stone sills (as do all of the exterior windows in the building). Atop the basement windows runs a continuous belt course that caps too the brick course of water table headers. Below and above the water table the bricks are laid in stretcher bond, with a free mix of lighter and darker bats. The building's exterior walls - including those of the front portico's abutment and the porch over the entrance to the boiler room steps - are of solid brick.

First & Second Stories

On the first floor there are four banks of classroom windows, one in each end pavilion and two in the center pavilion flanking the front portico. Each bank holds five double-hung 9/9 sashes. Those on the second floor are vertically aligned with the ones below, with the two in the center pavilion on either side of a tri-part center window arrangement above the portico. (Those in the center pavilion on the rear elevation flank a tri-part center window arrangement on both floors that are in perfect alignment with the porch over the boiler room steps below.) Also, there are four smaller, cloakroom windows on each floor, vertically aligned as well. They are paired close together, in twos, at each end of the center pavilion, with double-hung sashes of 4/4 lights. Splayed lintels of cast stone, with keystones, cap all of these windows on both front and rear elevations. There are five oblong cast stone panels per bank of windows on the facade, vertically aligned with the classroom window opening between the first and second stories, each inset with a garland of grapes raised in relief.

The front portico has a flat, tin covered roof that originally sported a classical balustrade (as did the side elevation porticos) that was removed in the 1960s. Its entablature is of wood, with MCGUFFEY SCHOOL in bronze letter fastened to the frieze. Four cast stone Tuscan columns (with two cast stone pilaster returns) support the portico roof, set on flooring of poured concrete between two three-foot-high side walls (each capped by a thick slab of limestone) that descend with the steps to the concrete plaza below. (This is repeated, in part, with the lower - and shallower - south portico, of two columns and pilaster returns; the north elevation portico, likewise with but two columns and pilaster returns, is at ground level.) Beneath each portico is a pair of large wooden entrance doors, with double-leaf raised panels and bronze hardware, in lightly accented surrounds. The doors beneath the side elevation porticos are topped by large, fixed transoms of twenty one lights, while the pair at the front portico entrance are topped by a signature, fixed, semi-circular fanlight of fourteen glass panes. The tri-part window arrangement above the front portico is in a single frame, its center window consisting of double-hung sashes of 12/12 lights flanked by two vertical sidelights of six panes each.

On each side elevation there is a tall, double set of windows in a single frame centered above the portico roof, with double-hung sashes of 12/12 lights, topped as well by a splayed lintel of cast stone, with a key stone. Flanking these windows (and the porticos) are a set of panels in the otherwise blank wall, a short one that is almost square over an oblong one, that are delineated by courses of raised headers and standing stretchers. All of the second story primary or classroom windows (on both the facade and the rear elevation) are directly capped by the immediate rise of the well-defined entablature with a perfectly proportioned modillion cornice. The cornice conceals a "Baltimore gutter", with four copper downspouts on each elevation.

The Roof

The slate hipped roof is of about forty degrees or moderate pitch, its mass broken by a miniscule raised hipped outline corresponding to the slight forward projection of each of the end pavilions, that offers a complimentary balance to the whole. Of the chimneys (all interior), there are two actual, symmetrically placed aft of the roof ridge in the center pavilion and spaced about twelve feet apart, with slightly accented crowns. (Originally these chimneys served the two coal fired boilers.) The eight massive faux chimneys were for spent or "vilitated" air (as a part of the fresh warm air and ventilation component to the original heating system); four to each end of the center pavilion, two to each side of the roof's ridge that are joined by a brick apron (each serving two classrooms and the basement rooms directly below). Their non-defined crowns are merely flat courses of headers and soldiers, upon which sit four piers that support great slabs of limestone caps.

Alterations & Repairs

In a 1926 photograph, the metal "grills" that covered the fresh air intake openings on either side of the second story center window over the front portico were still in place; in a 1936 photograph they have been replaced by the six pane vertical side-lights one sees today. In the 1960s, the classical balustrades atop the porticos were removed. Also, in the 1960s, a basement level exit was created under the front portico where a pair of doors, with mesh-wire glass in them, open out to a short flight of concrete steps up to the yard. In 1999, all of the chimneystacks - faux and actual - had extensive repair work done to them: besides re-pointing, the top halves of most were dismantled, cleaned and reset as before. And in 2002, the front portico's abutment (or foundation wall), along with that to the front steps, was about sixty

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percent rebuilt - as were those to the south side elevation portico, with new limestone treads set to both. The concrete plaza that descends in two levels to 2nd Street N.W. was repaved, with a series of iron handrails embedded where it breaks for steps. Thus viewed, the front and side elevations of the McGuffey School building, in spite of the loss of the portico balustrades and the metal grills, appears exactly as it did in the photographs taken right after it was completed. This, however, can not be said of the rear elevation - and that is only because of the 1995/96 addition of an elevator housing. (This is a brick tower with a short "lobby" connecting it to the north end of the center pavilion, of unbroken flat walls that rise to just above the entablature - which it left intact because the tower itself sits out from it. It is entered at parking lot level through a pair of stainless steel sliding doors.)

THE INTERIOR, IN DETAIL

Dimensions

Three longitudinal corridors, one over the other, their solid brick walls equaling the thickness of the exterior walls, run the length of the building (north to south), although the one in the basement is divided into two equal sections by what was the warm air chamber. And before the fire marshal, in 1975, ordered firewalls built, all three opened to the stairwells on each end of the building. From the front portico one enters the first floor foyer, of fourteen foot width. Directly across the twelve-foot-wide longitudinal corridor is the office. There are the eight classrooms with adjoining cloakrooms on the first floor, four on either side of the longitudinal corridor with the foyer on the front of the building and the office on the rear separating them. Those on the end pavilions measure twenty five by thirty two feet, and those in the center pavilion measure twenty four by thirty two feet. The area of natural light emitted is equal to twenty five percent of the floor space in each. The classrooms on the second floor measure likewise. In addition to more classrooms the second floor also originally featured the library room, located directly above the front foyer, and the teachers' restroom, located directly above the office. The overall effect is that of spaciousness throughout (combined with a generous infusion of direct light), while all three (original) entrances provide easy access to the whole of the building, and swift egress.

Basement

In the basement, all of the (original) interior walls are of brick, and remain painted still - as the guide books at the time recommended - with only the longitudinal corridors' walls (as are the ceilings, other than that in the boiler room) covered with plaster. The floors throughout are of poured, Portland concrete. Wooden doors with raised panels - those to the boys' and girls' toilets (only one is left) had louvers in the bottom half - open from the respective rooms off the longitudinal corridors. The rooms also had windows looking out into the corridor, three 3/3 single sashes on hinges per wall. In the north basement, the boys' playroom was equal the length and breadth of two classrooms and their cloakrooms; on the rear of the building here was the boys' restroom - equaling the length and breadth of a classroom and two back to back cloakrooms directly above it - and the janitor's room, with a toilet closet, that equaled three quarters of the classroom directly above it. In the south basement, were the girls' playroom, the girls' toilet and the coal room. What was the coal room's space is several steps down from the longitudinal corridor. And the boiler room (which is at the rear of the building, dead center, and straddles the office directly above it) is several steps further again. Directly ahead of the boiler room was the warm air chamber from which hot forced air was directed via ducts to each classroom - by a motorized fan in the wall between it and the fresh air chamber that was directly below the front foyer. Entrance to these rooms (originally) was through small closets at the end of each longitudinal corridor. These closets - like the warm air chamber they entered into - were likewise fitted with thick hot water radiator coils. The fan room - as the fresh air room was also called - drew the fresh air down from the grill-covered openings on either side of the center window above the front portico through shafts on either side of the first floor front foyer.

Of all the levels in the building, the basement area, over time, has been the most reconfigured, yet the alterations remain within the walls of the original rooms. Very early on it appears that the girls' playroom substituted as the school's auditorium, with a stage built at its south end and a door leading off from it, up a couple of flights of steps to the south entrance landing. In 1975, the stage was closed off to create a separate artist's studio. In the 1980s and 1990s, the remainder of what had been the girls' playroom was divided by first one then another loosely attached sheetrock wall.

In the late 1930s, the north portion of the girls' toilet was bricked off to create a small sewing room with its own door to the longitudinal corridor. Both the boys and girls toilets underwent a series of alterations over the years and, in 1995/96, both were completely replaced with modern restroom facilities. The center portion of the south longitudinal corridor, in the 1950s for certain, was partitioned off, with its own entrance door, to create a small classroom area. The door and steps down to the coal room were not removed when this was done,

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and since 1975 both these rooms have functioned as a sculpture studio. That area of what had been the south longitudinal corridor's north end, behind this classroom addition, continues to open from its original doorway into the former girls' playroom. In the north basement area, the windows in the longitudinal corridor, before 1975, were sealed up with sheetrock as well - the three to what had been the boys' playroom, the two to the boys' toilet and the one to the former janitor's room. Recently though, the one to the latter has been opened up (this room now is a glassblower's studio), with its sash found intact. In the 1930s, the janitor's room would become - at the same time that the sewing room was created in the south basement - the kitchen room, along with the north portion of the boys' toilet adjoining it for the cooking room (at which time the janitor's toilet closet was removed - and the door down to the boiler room bricked up). Charles Calrow, the Norfolk architect who had worked with Dr. Johnson on the construction of the McGuffey School building (and later the Venable and Clark school buildings) was the architect for these alterations. Following this, the boys' playroom would substitute as the school cafeteria. This room today is subdivided into four artists' studios by two semi-permanent and one in-permanent sheetrock constructed walls. This is a small example of what Dr. Johnson meant when he wrote that the building was so planned that it could absorb change within its original layout. The one room in the basement that remains unchanged is the boiler room. Since 1995/96 a single furnace heats the building. Before that, there were two antiquated furnaces from the 1940s or 1950s, one of which existed (at least after they were restarted in 1975) for the bowdlerizing of it for parts to keep the other working. Originally, there had been two "horizontal water boilers", not only for direct radiation but to heat those coils in the warm air chamber and its closets. The warm air chamber, and the fresh air/fan room forward of it, became obsolete in the 1930s, and were used in part for storage until the city, in 1995/96, removed most of the iron coils (some of those high in the walls remain embedded still) so that the two rooms could be fully utilized for storage, etc..

First Floor

While the longitudinal corridors' walls on all three levels are of solid brick, the walls between the cloakrooms that adjoin each other, between the cloakrooms and their classrooms, and between the classrooms and the front foyer, and between the the office and the classrooms are of lath and plaster. (The plaster throughout the building is original, but for patchwork after repairs and the 1995/96 renovation.) The floors are of Georgia maple. The exterior doors have limestone thresholds. The woodwork is of simple design and for the most part remains in its natural color. Exceptions to the latter are that in the elevator corridors and in the office (new woodwork went into the office after the 1980 fire.) Though closed off from the stairs at each end by the 1975 firewalls, there is abundant direct light during most daylight hours in the longitudinal corridor from the fanlight over the front doors and the tri-part door and flanking window glass that front the office. It is otherwise lit today by track lighting on black frames that hang from the black painted ceilings (it is black painted on the walls too, down to the picture rails). There are three globe lights (modern replicas of the originals that once hung through the corridor), one in the front foyer, and one at each end of the longitudinal corridor, just inside the firewall doors. Originally, there were hanging globe light fixtures in the classrooms as well but they were replaced at some point by what looks like 1950s florescent fixtures that remain. All of the classrooms today have at least one dividing wall that is either semi-permanent or moveable - except for those that are the main gallery, the two dance studios and "the classroom", which remain open.

"The classroom", located on the northwest corner of the building, is the one room that most resembles its former self as a classroom - though it has lost is cloakroom to the 1995/96 elevator corridor,. It is essentially undivided (it has a moveable wall at the rear) and for the most part its blackboards (on all three walls, though two are covered) remain intact. (In most of the former classrooms the blackboards are either covered over, or have been removed altogether along the lines of those in the main gallery and the dance studio.) One can see in the floor where the desks were fastened. Visible too in the wall above the rear blackboard, and at baseboard level next to where the cloakroom entrances had been, are the outlines of the boarded up warm fresh air entrance "alcove" and the spent air exits respectively. (These are closed off likewise in all of the former classrooms in the building, in the first floor foyer and in the former basement toilets and playroom as well.)

During the 1995/96 renovation, the two back-to-back cloakrooms located on the northwest end of the center pavilion were sacrificed to an elevator corridor with the wall between them removed and their two open entranceways from the respective classrooms plastered over. The oblong, block-like protruding walls, directly opposite each other, seen jutting out into this corridor now are the faux chimneys' airshafts, formerly inside each cloakroom. The ceiling here is a drop one, with modern florescent fixtures in it. As for the other cloakrooms during this renovation, they lost their original porcelain hand basins and water fountains that were replaced by plastic tubs, but otherwise suffered no further change. Another 1995/96-renovation change on the first floor was the front to the office. The original tri-part door and windows arrangement, that had survived the fire of 1980, was replaced with a somewhat wider metal-framed facsimile with fixed transoms and sidelights of fireproof glass. It was following the fire of 1980 that the office, originally one room, was divided into a separate office and shop-reception area. The fire started in an electrical outlet and burned its way through the south wall and into the next room that is still the art

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center's main exhibition gallery. The floor of the main gallery had to be replaced - with matching Georgia maple - but that part of the former office, the front half that became the shop-reception area, remained open to it, giving the main gallery two entrances. The tri-partite window arrangement from the office to the foyer had to be replaced, as did the former office floor area, along with the woodwork and plaster walls. (The chimney shafts on either side of the outer door and flanking windows, originally plaster covered, were left bare - for decorative purpose.) The room that is the main gallery and the former classroom next to it are the most altered rooms, as it were, of all the former classrooms in the building, in that all trace of the blackboards, etc., have been removed and the walls and woodwork are 100% white painted. During the 1995/96 renovations, these rooms were given doors with fireproof glass windows in them, in place of the originals. In the mid-1980s the wall between the adjoining cloakrooms was partially removed and one of the erstwhile cloakroom openings to the McGuffey Art Center's main gallery was wall-boarded-up. In these two former classrooms all of the original woodwork remains, if minus the blackboard troughs and surrounds and painted white.

The Stairs

From the side entrance landing the stairs continue to rise - from the first floor itself, turning, up to the landing between the first and second floor (beneath the tall, side elevation window over the respective porticos), before turning again to continue up to the second floor. "Designed for ease and comfort being five and one half feet wide, having six inch risers and thirteen inch treads, the runs being relieved by a spacious landing between each story", is how Dr. Johnson described them in his DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PLANT in the July 24, 1915 edition of the Daily Progress. It is how they remain today, in their cast iron, closed stringer frames with cast iron railings and newel posts coupled with maple banisters making for easy ascent and descent for child and adult alike. The treads, said to have originally been of wood, are now soapstone - as are the landings between the first and second floor.

In 1995/96, florescent wall fixtures replaced the long hanging globe lights over the landings between the first and second floor; shorter hanging globe lights hung over the north and south entrance landings.

Second Floor

The center rooms on the second floor were the library or "special instruction room" and, across the longitudinal corridor from it, the teachers' rest room. It is not certain if the latter was a "restroom" by today's definition or simply a lounge - or both. It was also the school infirmary. In 1995/96, this room was enlarged by a couple of feet taken from the adjoining classroom to the south to create a handicapped accessible men's and women's restroom, each entered from a short lobby off the longitudinal corridor. This replaced a dual set of restrooms within the original walls of the former teachers' restroom that were entered directly from the longitudinal corridor. It may have been that the teacher's restroom had been fronted with the same tri-partite door and window arrangement found in the office directly below. This same arrangement still fronts the former library room across the corridor., The 1995/96-elevator corridor on this floor is the same as on the first floor, with the former classroom on the northwest corner entered from it. Other than the loss of two cloakrooms, the eight former classrooms on the second floor retain their original shape, with their original doors and woodwork. The second floor longitudinal corridor is lit by track lights and two hanging globe replicas while the former classrooms retain their florescent fixtures from the 1950s.

Alterations Within The Building - In Perspective

"School plants are no exception to the general rule that almost all buildings used for any purpose must be changed and modified from time to time to meet conditions and demands." wrote Dr. Johnson. "The original layout of McGuffey School was such that it has been easy to make readjustments as the years have gone by and this structure is still a home for the children who are so fortunate as to attend school here."

The building underwent many alterations during the period of significance as already discussed. The 1980 fire necessitated changes to the office and main gallery area as discussed above, and in 1995/96, the building was closed for nine months for its most comprehensive renovation. During this time the elevator tower was added to the rear elevation, with four cloakrooms, two on the first floor and two on the second floor, sacrificed to created corridors to it.

In addition to the school building, a shed, ca. 1960s, is also located on the property. It is a plywood structure formerly housing either ground maintenance equipment or playground equipment or both. It originally sat at the far back of the school's playground (and later parking lot). It was moved to its present location - close to the southwest corner of the school building/art center - in 1983, when the McGuffey Hill Condominiums were built - and subsequently turned into an artist's studio. It is a non-contributing building.

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Summary Statement of Significance

The William. H. McGuffey Primary School in Charlottesville, Virginia, was built between 1915 and 1916. It was named for the author of the first standard U.S. reader series who was a staunch advocate of public education and a University of Virginia professor of moral philosophy. The school, a two-story, brick building in the Colonial Revival style, was Charlottesville's first primary school building built for that purpose. It was much lauded for its physical harmony, both on its facade and with its interior layout which followed contemporary guidance for Progressive Era primary and secondary school design. James G. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, played a major role determining the features of the school and its appearance and features and used McGuffey School as a model for other schools he planned in Charlottesville. McGuffey School ceased to be a public school in 1973.

Justification of Criteria: Because of its design and execution which closely followed Progressive Era guidelines for school construction McGuffey School became a model for subsequent school construction in Charlottesville and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C at the local level for architecture. As the first purpose-built primary school in Charlottesville, as the first area school to employ a female principal, and as a model for subsequent school design and construction in Charlottesville following the recommendations of Progressive Era educational reformers, the school is also eligible at the local level under Criterion A in the area of education. The period of significance begins in 1916 when the school opened and ends in 1945. James G. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, retired in 1945 and this date signals the termination of the school's first period of development.

Historical Background

In 1915, Charlottesville had two high schools – Midway School for white students and Jefferson School for African American students. Each was close to the downtown area and both also housed primary and elementary school grades. There were also several primary schools for white children housed in private dwellings in the downtown residential area like the "Miss Virginia Patterson School." The McGuffey School was built to incorporate these primary schools - and the primary grades at Midway School - under one roof.

The design for the McGuffey School was conceived by James G. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools in Charlottesville, who "studied the plans of between four and five hundred school buildings in different parts of the country through actual visits and through plans published in the School Board Journal and in all the books on school architecture that I could lay my hands upon" and utilized Progressive Era concepts and philosophies of school design and construction. R. E. Lee Taylor, a partner in the firm of Furguson, Calrow and Taylor, drew up the plans with Johnson. Every aspect of the McGuffey School was "scientifically calculated" from the original fresh air intake/heating and ventilation system down to the "correct" amount of natural light for each classroom. Dr. Johnson chose the name for the school as well.

Construction of the school was made possible through the issuance of a bond. "It is no easy thing," Dr.. Johnson wrote at the McGuffey School's genesis.

To go through weeks and years of actual searching for suitable school sites, to determine in light of all the fact what is best for the general good of the school system in buildings and equipment... to spend long hours in meetings grappling with the perplexing problems that confront the School Board members who have the unremunerated burden of patriotic service thrust upon them. The City School Board has gone through this process with unselfish devotion to the public welfare. The City Council has approved their conclusions and authorized a bond issue to carry into effect well matured plans evolved through first hand experience in dealing with the most important factor in the civic life of a community...The responsibility now rests with the voters. Will they face this

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responsibility with patriotic courage?²

The voters did, supporting the measure by a majority of more than two to one when voting on the bond issue on July 20, 1915. One month later ground was broken, and the construction of the McGuffey Primary School commenced. Dr. Johnson was often onsite as the building went up. On September 7, 1916, the Charlottesville Daily Progress announced the opening of the McGuffey Primary School:

To Dr. James G. Johnson is due the credit for the completion of this up to date and splendid addition to the educational facilities of this city and section. Not content with obtaining the very best professional skill in the planning and erection of this building, Dr. Johnson has made the perfect construction of this school house his special interest and pride. Not a day has passed during the past twelve months since the foundation and the first brick laid, that has not seen him present at the work at all hours of the day when his duties permitted, seeing to it that nothing was done in a careless manner, or any act omitted to make the work perfect in every particular. With him it was a labor of love and the finished edifice, which will start the coming generation of Charlottesville's youth on the road to learning, is a monument to his faithfulness and zeal in his profession.³

Miss Carrie C. Burnley who served as the first principal of McGuffey School from 1916 to 1945 was Charlottesville's first female principal. She attended schools in Albemarle County and a school in Charlottesville conducted by sisters of Dr. William H. McGuffey and in 1883 began her teaching career in a one-room log schoolhouse near the Mechum River. After teaching in Harrisonburg she began teaching seventh grade in Charlottesville at Midway School in 1894. She served as assistant principal of the grammar grades, graduating to the high school department before being selected as principal for the McGuffey School. At any given year up to eight hundred pupils attended the school. Early on, instituted a cold breakfast program for "orphans and those in need." Also, between 1916 and 1945, it housed Dr. Johnson's office as Superintendent of Schools and was where the school board met.

From 1916 through 1945, McGuffey School offered a "progressive" curriculum. The school had a newspaper, "The McGuffey Reader," and a number of extra curricular activities were offered under Miss Burnley's leadership and with Dr. Johnson's oversight. Many of Charlottesville's white citizens who became prominent in their community or took active roles in its affairs from the 1940s into the 1990s attended McGuffey School. Also, during this period, the school acted as something as a community center as well, serving as a meeting hall or functioning as a polling place. And, as a model for an entire system of public schools, McGuffey School set the standard for architectural quality and educational excellence. In his capacity as Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James G. Johnson was responsible for the construction of a system of elementary schools in the city.

In his *History of Venable School*, 1922-1936, Dr. Johnson wrote: "In the planning and construction of Venable School and every other building with which I have had anything to do with, the architects and I have had but one aim, to combine the elements of harmony, simplicity, utility and beauty in such a manner as to be pleasing to the eye and to serve as a comfortable home at which teachers and children may work together effectively and happily."⁴ Altogether, during his tenure as Superintendent from 1909 until 1945, Dr. Johnson oversaw the construction of seven schools in the city including two new high school buildings: the new Jefferson School building in 1926 for the black community and Lane High School for the white community in 1939. While working within the context of "separate but equal" then guiding the school system, Dr. Johnson anticipated the growing demand for public education from, and the necessity of making educational opportunity available for, *all* citizens both black and white, and he sought to keep ahead of that demand. By the turn of the 20th century, public school enrollment was rising twenty five percent per decade. Dr. Johnson was as concerned with the direction that the public education curriculum should take. Dr. Johnson's own thoughts on the matter might have been revealed in his choice for speaker at the McGuffey School's dedication

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**William H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia**

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ceremony. Dr. William M. Thornton, Dean of the University of Virginia's Department of Engineering, exhorted his listeners to support the importance of a comprehensive education as opposed to that which would "hamper its development, cut out of its curriculum all appeals to the ideal forms in human life and thought, bind it to topics which will pay immediate dividends in wage earning capacity." It appears that Dr. Thornton's plea was adhered to. In a 1936 essay entitled "What McGuffey Does for its Pupils," seventh-grade history teacher, Lillie Payne Woodson, quoted John Dewey on community membership and the spirit of public service in her preface, before going on to laud the school's academic successes as she saw them. She praised, in particular, the recent introduction of "extra curricular activities" which helped to develop "an appreciation of art, music, literature, ideals of home life and an intelligent interest, on the part of the community, in the school, its needs and possibilities."

It was in his office at McGuffey that Dr. Johnson planned and oversaw the construction of Charlottesville's Venable and Clark Schools, among a number of others, with his architect "of choice", Charles J. Calrow (of Ferguson, Calrow & Taylor later Calrow, Brown & Fitz-Gibbon of Norfolk, Virginia). Johnson in his 1936 school histories described Calrow as "This most skillful architect who for twenty one years has been my co-worker in developing a group of elementary school buildings."⁵ Most of these school buildings - all of which are still in use, two as public schools - Johnson modeled after the McGuffey School, his prototype.

In the years that followed, the McGuffey School was at the forefront of the history of public education in Charlottesville. Established early in the coming of age of public education itself the school served Charlottesville's white students through two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War period and through the efforts in the 1960s to integrate public schools. The school's final years as an educational facility witnessed its transformation in 1966 from a white primary school to an integrated school for students with special needs. In her 2005 "Downtown and North Downtown Architectural Design Control Study, architecture historian Maral S. Kalbian wrote of McGuffey School: "It had been an all white school for most of its history, but with efforts to desegregate in the mid-1960s, it ultimately became a primarily black school... (It) ceased to operate as an elementary school in 1966 and was converted to a racially integrated Special Education Center for mentally retarded but educable children. In the mid-1970s, McGuffey ceased to function as a school and was converted to the McGuffey Art Center which it remains today."⁶

The McGuffey School building exemplifies Progressive Era philosophy in the field of education and as such, exhibits most of the requisite features proscribed in a veritable flood of manuals and academic treatises on the subject of public school planning and construction being published in Virginia and the rest of the country at the end of the 19th Century and well into the beginning of the 20th.

"Let the school building, then, be solidly built, thoroughly fire proof, abundantly lighted, with adequate, straight halls and ample stairways, having sunshine and access for the outer air in every room besides abundant forced ventilation" wrote Frank Irving Cooper in *The Planning of Modern School Houses* (1910). "Let it be cheerful and attractive without and within; well placed and supplied with adequate playground and pleasant surrounds and it will not only be a source of pride, but a blessing to the community, as well as a credit to its designer."⁷

Cooper here easily could have been describing the building that Dr. Johnson, in his Proposed New School Building, offered to the citizens of Charlottesville in the July 14, 1915 edition of the *Daily Progress*, where he wrote: "An effort has been made to handle every detail to the best advantage for each individual classroom and for the plant as a whole. Harmony, simplicity, utility, beauty have been the ends sought by the architects and school officials."⁸ In all aspects of the building's planning and execution, it appears that Dr. Johnson and his architects took to heart the suggestions (and incorporated the vision) of such expositors on the subject as Cooper and W. G. Bruce (*School Architecture: A Handy Manual for the Use of Architects and School Authorities*, published in 1910).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

William H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia

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The McGuffey School building and its playground were sited on an elevated site, situated so that direct sunlight would fall across the left shoulders of its pupils in those classrooms on the east or front side of the building during the morning hours, as it would likewise in the afternoon in those classrooms on the west or rear side of the building. There was abundant natural light in each of its classrooms throughout the school day - where the ratio of natural light emitted to floor space exceeded the percentage called for in the school construction manuals of the day. Its corridors, playrooms and toilets were exceptionally well lit too. Dr. Johnson described the basement area in the McGuffey as better lit than the classrooms in most Virginia schools, especially with the interior windows in its longitudinal corridors. Natural sunlight "is important for proper sanitation," wrote Dr. Johnson, adding in reference to the McGuffey building. "The most rigid requirements governing the construction of sanitary school buildings have been complied with both in the general and the detailed scheme."⁹ The original playground, at the rear of the building, equaled the building's length (it was divided into a girls' side and a boys' side) and about three quarters of its width, and stretched over as level a surface as possible. By mid-day for much of the school year the playground was almost totally awash with sunlight.

Other features from the contemporary building manuals that were incorporated into the construction of McGuffey School were its solid brick exterior and interior walls to lessen the risk of fire or to contain fire; a slate covered roof, also for fire protection, and corridors measuring half the width of the classrooms, open at each end, and without any protruding obstacles so as to ensure ample passage in case of an emergency. The manuals called for separate entrances for the sexes, complete with a portico at each entrance, and double doors that opened outward.

The school included a library or "teaching room," considered an essential component by Dr. Johnson, where teachers might work individually with a pupil, as well as a teachers' restroom (that could substitute as the school's infirmary). Lighting was important in the "modern" design for the school. The stairs were placed at each end of the building so that they would be lit naturally from top floor to basement level by the large windows. The stairs themselves were designed with a gentle rise and with ample width, broken by spacious landings. The basement had ample size playrooms and toilets for each sex, both well ventilated and the latter with "fixtures of the most approved automatic type."¹⁰ Both playrooms and toilets were physically separated to guarantee privacy. The basement's boiler room was "entirely fireproof reducing the danger of fire to a minimum."¹¹ Other basement space was provided for the requisite coal room; the janitor's room (with its own toilet); as well as a fresh air fan room and a warm air chamber of radiator coils for the indirect radiation system.

The McGuffey School's classrooms were designed to comfortably seat forty-five pupils each, with desks secured to the floor - between which and the sub-floor was laid a "deadening quilt". Following construction manual guidance, the floors were the requisite 13-foot pitch and the windows were equipped with "transparent shades that will shut out the dazzling sun light during that portion of the day when the sun beams directly into the rooms in full force".¹² There was no wainscoting as it "harbored dirt and bacteria".¹³ The classrooms were painted in the recommended colors, those of quiet hues. There was a cloakroom in each classroom - independently lit, heated and ventilated, and accessed from the classroom by two open entrances that were in direct view of the teacher's desk. It was equipped with all the necessary implements: racks for coats and hats, boots, umbrellas, and shelves for lunch boxes. It was equipped, too, with a porcelain hand basin and water fountain.

The classroom blackboards were of natural slate, three and one half feet wide and fitted with chalk troughs covered by wire screens and were placed at heights to suit the children in each grade placed. Each classroom had blackboards along three walls. Heat was from both direct and indirect radiation. In Dr. Johnson's words,

The classrooms are cared for by direct radiation to overcome loses through exposed walls and windows while an abundant supply of fresh warm air is forced into each room by a motor driven fan from the warm air chamber located in the basement and supplied with fresh air taken from a point over the front entrance insuring freedom from pollution of any kind. The air is removed from each room through ventilating flues that lead out to the open air above the roof.¹⁴

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**William H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia**

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The large amount of space in the building given over to the fresh warm air and the ventilating system in the construction of the building illustrates the importance of this system in the "sanitation" philosophy at that time. It is described in various details in all of the school building manuals and books on "modern school architecture." The system was eventually discontinued at McGuffey and elsewhere most likely because of the difficulty of keeping the heat and humidity in near perfect equilibrium as the system required to function most efficiently.

McGuffey School served as the model for Venable (opened 1925) and Clark (built ca. 1930) elementary schools in Charlottesville, both of which remain open and active. The three were virtually the same in floor plan and have similar facilities and features, but each presents a different façade. Venable, located closer to the University of Virginia, has a two-story front portico with columns and there are two cupolas instead of McGuffey's massive chimneys. Clarke School lacks the end porticos of McGuffey, but has a large two-story front portico topped with a classical balustrade. The schools possess the same window arrangements and all three buildings share similar proportions of length, width and mass.

The William H. McGuffey Primary School building - some alteration notwithstanding - retains its original mass and form and much of its historic materials. It remains a vibrant model of an architectural expression that set the standard for the public school plant in the first half of the 20th century in the United States. The two schools modeled on McGuffey's plan --Venable School and Clark School -- are still an intrinsic part of the Charlottesville school system. The McGuffey School building now functions as the city's art center, still serving the community at large.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**William H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia**

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**William H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia**

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School/McGuffey Art Center is identified on the tax parcel maps for the City of Charlottesville as plot # 174(3) on Tax Map 33.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property's boundaries contain all of the acreage currently associated with the McGuffey School building. The rear of the original school property was sold off and subdivided for a condominium development in the 1980s and is therefore not included.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

William H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia

Section Endnotes Page 13

- ¹ History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936. page 28
- ² James G. Johnson, The History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, page 28.
- ³ James G. Johnson, The History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, page 32.
- ⁴ The McGuffey Reader, Edition 1936, Vol. 1-9.
- ⁵ The McGuffey Reader, Edition 1936, Vol. 1-9.
- ⁶ Maral S. Kalbian, Downtown and North Downtown Architectural Design Control Study...2005.
- ⁷ Frank I. Cooper. The Planning of Modern School Houses, 1910.
- ⁸ James G. Johnson, History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, The McGuffey Reader, Edition 1936, Vol. 109.
- ⁹ James G. Johnson, The History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, page 29.
- ¹⁰ James G. Johnson, The History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, page 29.
- ¹¹ James G. Johnson, The History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, page 29.
- ¹² James G. Johnson, The History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, page 29.
- ¹³ James G. Johnson, The History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, page 29.
- ¹⁴ James G. Johnson, The History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936, page 29.

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



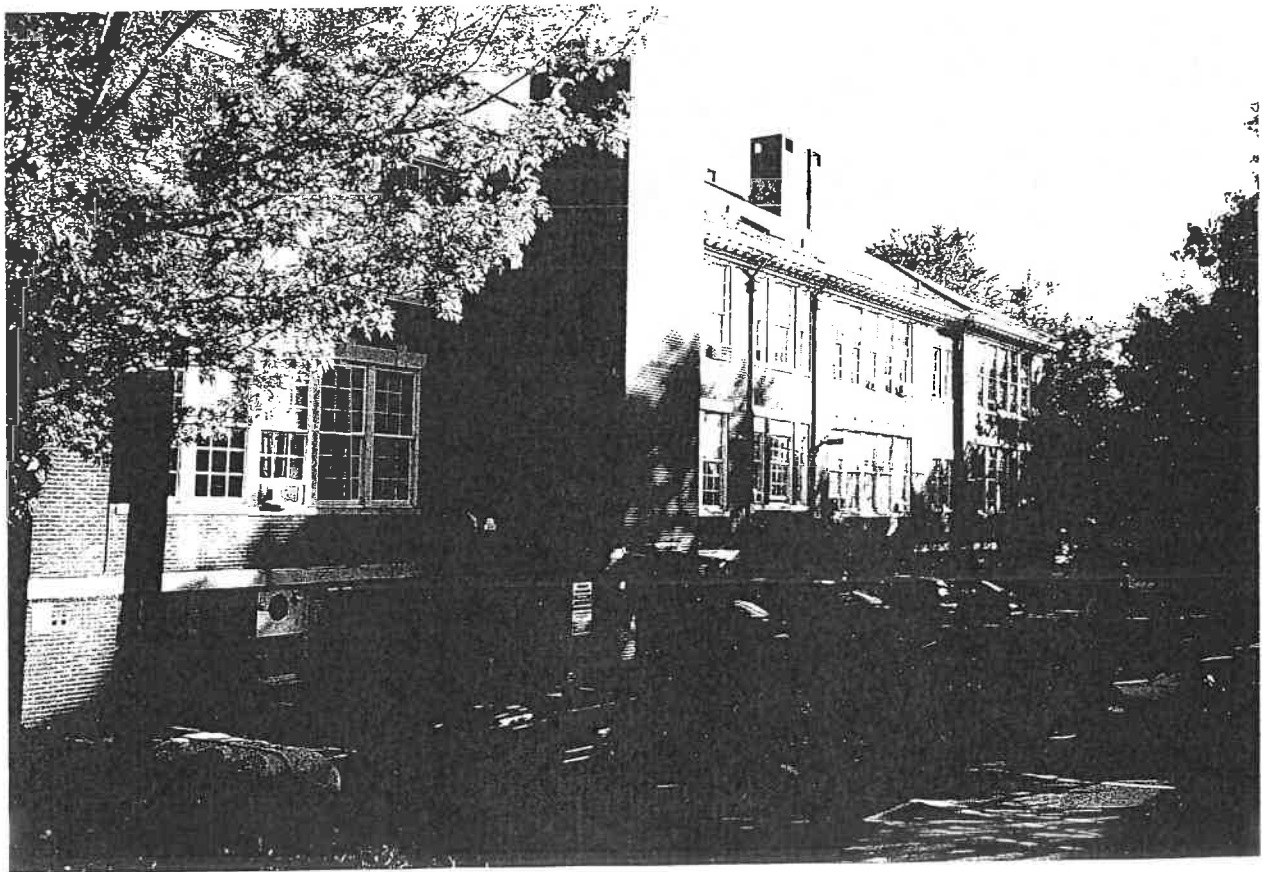
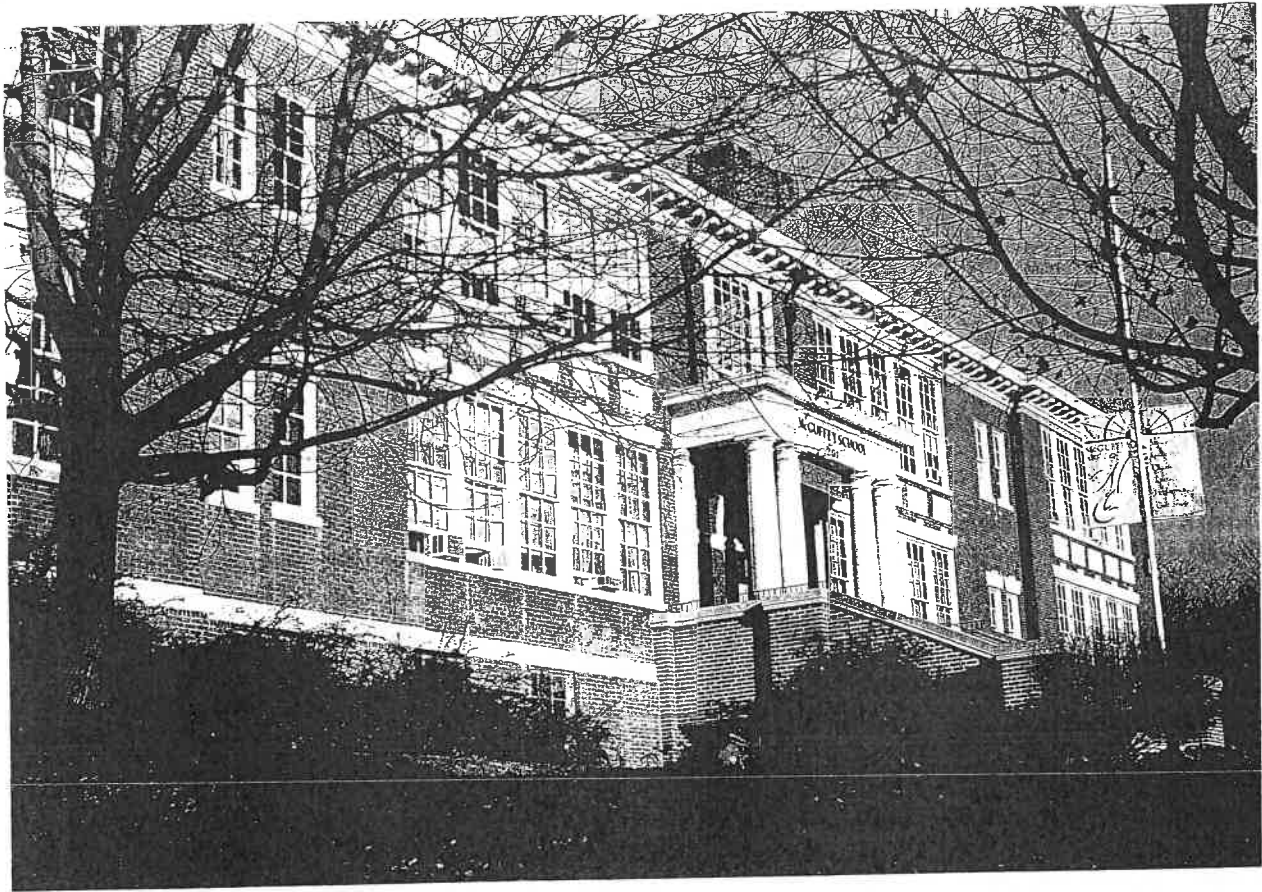
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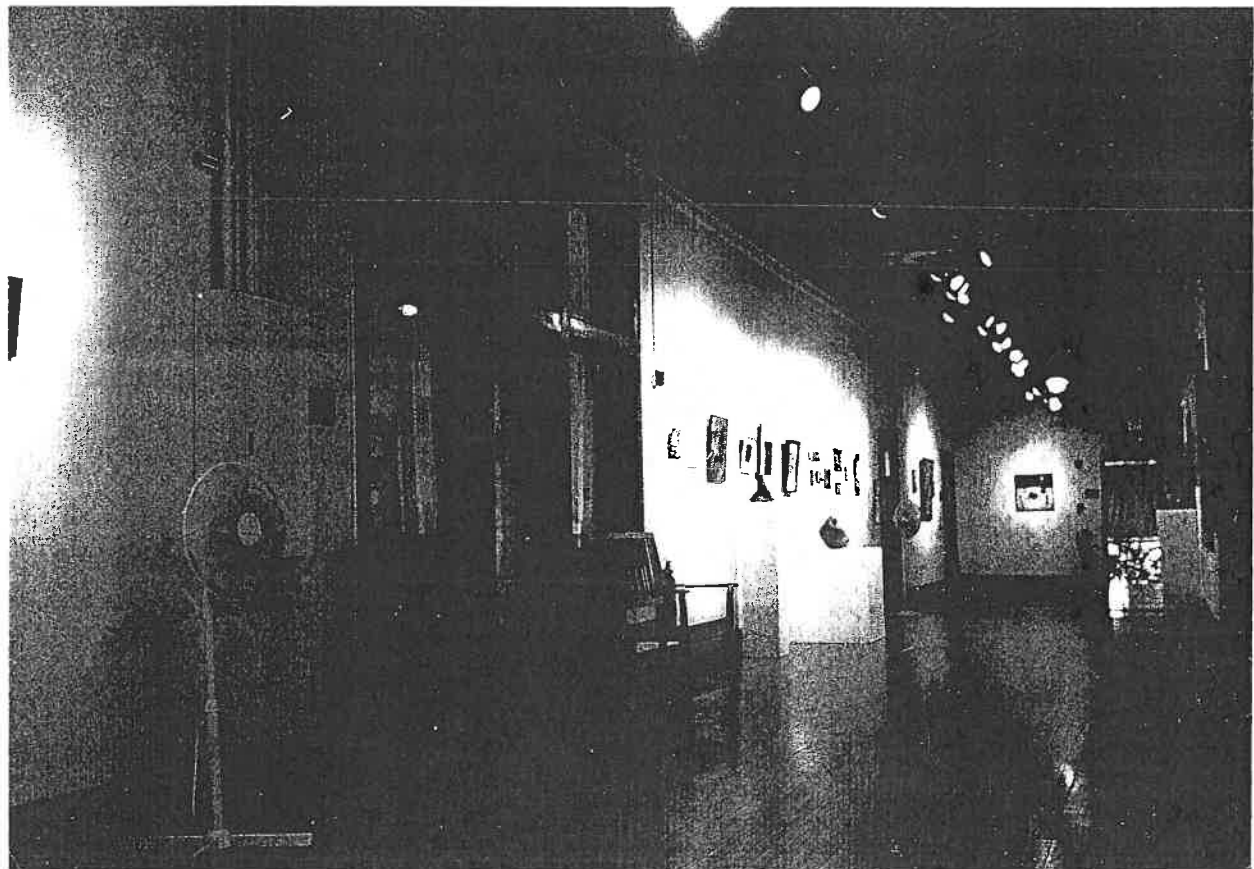
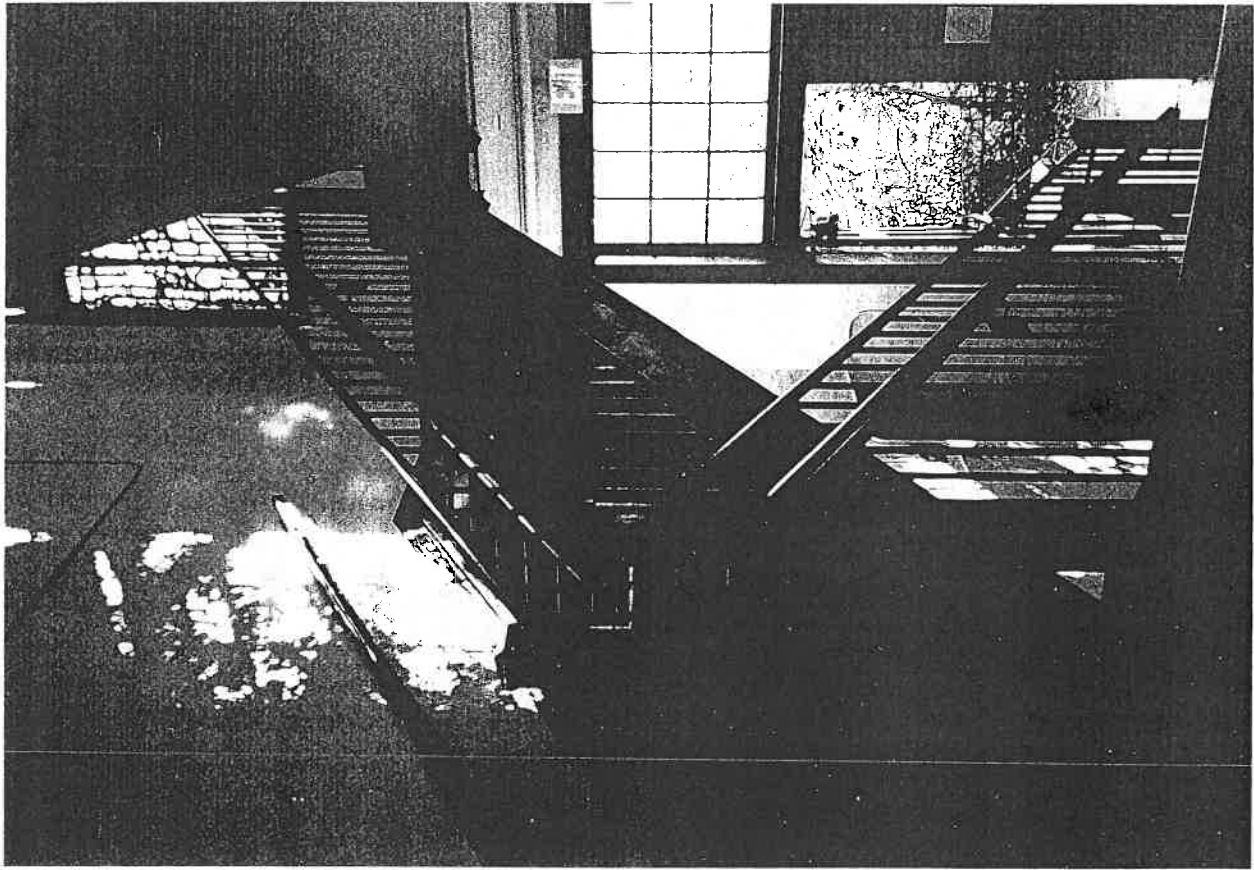
This map is for display purposes only.
Distances shown are from plats and may not measure accurately.
These maps have been updated as of March 2005.



TAX MAP 33

Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia
DHR File # 104-0072-03000





9/24

To: Mary Joy Scales
For cleanup
Gary O



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-0311

cc: Jim Tolbert
Blair Morris

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

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www.dhr.virginia.gov

September 22, 2008

Mr. Gary O'Connell
City Manager, City of Charlottesville
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Re: McGuffey School, City of Charlottesville

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

We are pleased to inform you, that at its September 18, 2008 meeting, the State Review Board concurred with the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and recommended that you proceed with preparing a nomination for listing the **McGuffey School** in the national and state registers. Please note that the Board's approval at this stage is only informal, and is not a guarantee that the nomination will succeed. Listing in the registers is wholly dependent upon the receipt of a more substantially documented nomination supporting the arguments presented in the PIF and/or raised in staff and board discussions.

For technical details, and while developing the nomination in general, we *strongly* encourage you to work closely with Capital Region Preservation Office staff at 804-367-2323, as they will be the best sources of information. Please also see the attached sheet on the criteria used for listing, which should be consulted when discussing the property's historic significance. The National Register of Historic Places form is used for nominating resources both to the Virginia and the National Registers. You may prepare the nomination yourself or hire a consultant.

Before making a final recommendation on the resource, the DHR staff, the State Review Board, and the Historic Resources Board will need to see a fully developed nomination. We caution you that if the staff or boards do not feel that a sufficient argument has been made for a resource, we may ask for more information or recommend that the nomination no longer go forward. A recommendation to continue is also subject to re-evaluation if the architectural and/or archaeological resource is significantly altered, remodeled, or partially demolished, or if further research reveals that the resource is less significant than originally proposed. Should the preparation of a nomination go forward, you will be notified prior to any formal action by the Department. Thank you for your interest in the register program, and congratulations on proceeding successfully this far.

Sincerely,

Marc Christian Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division

cc: Mr. Richard Thrift
Enclosure

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803
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**Criteria for Listing
in the Virginia Landmarks Register
and the National Register of Historic Places
as specified by the National Park Service in Bulletin 16A**

Criteria for Evaluation: The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- b. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- c. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
- d. A cemetery which derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- e. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- f. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

Neighborhood Dev. Svcs.
To Mary Jo



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
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August 11, 2008

Mr. Gary O'Connell
City Manager, City of Charlottesville
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville, VA 22903

RECEIVED
AUG 18 2008
NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



Re: McGuffey School, City of Charlottesville

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

We are pleased to inform you that the Evaluation Team of the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), Virginia's historic preservation office, has considered the historic significance of the **McGuffey School**. After careful consideration of the information submitted thus far, the team recommended that you proceed with preparing a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. The property is *not listed* at this stage, but only recommended for continuation in the register process. Before official listing, a full nomination will need to be submitted to DHR for review.

The next step is for the State Review Board to consider the DHR staff's recommendation. The resource has been included on the Board's agenda for the upcoming meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2008. The Preliminary Information Form session, where the **McGuffey School** will be considered, starts after lunch in the Collections Room of the Department of Historic Resources at 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. This is an informal meeting, during which you may ask the Board for advice on preparing the nomination if you wish, though it is not necessary that you be present. Following this meeting, you will be notified by letter whether the Board agrees with the staff's recommendation to proceed.

If you decide to proceed with the requirements for listing on the registers, the final completed and staff-approved nomination will then go before the Boards again, at which time they will vote to recommend the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and to list the property in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the recommendation or meeting process, please contact me at 804-367-2323, extension 115.

Sincerely,

Marc Christian Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division

cc: Mr. Richard Thrift

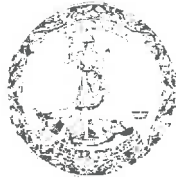
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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July 14, 2008

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www.dhr.virginia.gov

Mr. Richard Thrift
403 Altamont Circle, #3
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Re: McGuffey School, Charlottesville

Dear Mr. Thrift:

Thank you for submitting such a comprehensive Preliminary Information Form for the McGuffey School in Charlottesville. On July 10, 2008 the Evaluation Team of the Department of Historic Resources considered the eligibility of the **McGuffey School** for potential inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. It was the opinion of the team, after careful consideration of the information submitted thus far, that the property appears to meet the National Register of Historic Places criteria for eligibility under Criteria A and C in the areas of architecture and education.

The next step in the evaluation process is for the State Review Board to consider the DHR staff's recommendation. The resource will be included on the Board's agenda for the upcoming meeting on Thursday, September 18. The Preliminary Information Form session starts after lunch around 1:30 p.m. You will receive additional information from our Register staff regarding the time and location of the meeting in mid-late August. You are welcome to attend, though it is not necessary that you be present. Following this meeting, you will be notified by letter of the Board's recommendation.

The property is not listed at this stage but only recommended for continuation in the register process. Before official listing, a full nomination will need to be submitted to DHR for review. The final completed and staff-approved nomination will then go before the Boards again at which time they will vote to recommend the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and to list the property in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the recommendation or meeting process, please contact me at 804-367-2323, ext. 111 or by email at Kristin.Kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov. I am also available if you have any questions about preparing a National Register nomination.

Sincerely,

Kristin Kirchen, Architectural Historian
Capital Region Preservation Office

Cc: Mary Joy Scala, City of Charlottesville

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January 22, 2008

Ann Andrus, Director
Capitol Regional Preservation Office
Va. Dept. of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, Va. 23221

Dear Ms. Andrus:

I herein submit a Virginia Department of Historic Resources Preliminary Information Form on the McGuffey School building in Charlottesville, Virginia for your evaluation.

It is perhaps more inclusive than need be at this stage in the process, but I felt it proper to demonstrate to the city, its owner, at the outset that I was capable of making an adequate argument on the building's behalf. Those in your office with whom I have been in contact said it was alright to do so.

Please let me know what changes to make or mistakes to correct, if deemed necessary, in order to present the building in a more accurate and thus favorable light.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Thrift
403 Altamont Circle #3
Charlottesville
Virginia 22902
(rthrift2222@hotmail.com)



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Telephone: (804) 367-2323 Fax: (804) 367-2391

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY

The following constitutes an application for preliminary consideration of eligibility for the nomination potential of a property to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This does **not** mean that a property is being nominated to the registers at this time. Rather, it is being evaluated to determine if it qualifies for such listings. Applicants will be notified of the staff's and the State Review Board's recommendations.

Contact the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archivist to determine if previous survey material for this property is on file, and if the resource has been previously evaluated by DHR. Obtaining previously recorded information could save a significant amount of time in preparing this Preliminary Information Form (PIF). The archivist may be reached by phone at (804) 367-2323, ext. 124, or by email at archivist@dhr.virginia.gov. The archivist will also give you the address of the regional office to which you should send your completed PIF materials.

Please type this form and, if additional space is needed, use 8 1/2" X 11" paper. If an electronic version of this PIF is available, it would be helpful if it could be submitted on a disc, or via email to the archivist. Note: All submitted materials become the property of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and will not be returned.

✓ **Photographs:** Please provide at least four (4) black and white (B&W) photographs (generally North, South, East and West elevations) and four (4) B&W photographs of the interior space. Also provide photographs of other buildings on the property and views of the general setting. The inclusion of photographs is essential to the completion of this application. **Without photographs, the application cannot be evaluated.** Photographs should be labeled on the reverse side in soft pencil or china marker (not with adhesive labels), and are not to be mounted or affixed in any way.

Digital Images: We cannot accept digital photographs in lieu of 35 mm B&W prints, however we welcome them as supplements.

Maps: Please include two (2) maps showing the location of the property:

- ✓ A copy of a USGS Quad map with name of county/city printed on map and with the name of the property indicating its location (USGS Quadrangle maps can be printed free of charge from www.fws.gov or can be bought from many surveying or engineering supply stores), and
- ✓ A sketch site plan showing the primary resource, outbuildings, potential and/or known archaeological sites, highways, and main roads (noting street and route numbers), and other features that are important in conveying the significance of the total property. Please include a "North" arrow.

Before submitting this form, please make sure that you have included the following:

- ✓ Labeled USGS Quadrangle map
- ✓ Sketch site plan map of property
- ✓ 4 labeled B&W exterior photos
- ✓ 4 labeled B&W interior photos
- ✓ General surrounding photos (labeled)
- ✓ Completed Resource Information Sheet, including
 - Owner's signature
 - ✓ Applicant contact information
 - City or county official's contact information

Thank you for taking the time to submit this Preliminary Information Form. Your interest in Virginia's historic resources is helping to provide better stewardship of our cultural past.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information		For Staff Use Only
Property Name(s):	McGuffey School (common) McGuffey Art Center (current) Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School (historic)	DHR ID #:
Property Date(s):	1915/16 <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post	Open to the Public? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Property Address:	201 2nd Street N. W. City: Charlottesville Zip: 22902	
County or Ind. City:	city	USGS Quad(s): UTM 17 720930E 4212173N (NAD27)

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: 1.882	Setting (choose one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features:	
Please see Continuation Sheet 1	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property:	
None	
Ownership Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

Individual Resource Information	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
Education: primary & elementary school; school board office	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) Artists cooperative; studios & exhibition galleries (also art teaching facility)	
Architectural style or elements of styles: Colonial Revival	
Architect, builder, or original owner: R. E. Lee Taylor & Charles Calrow of Furgeson, Calrow & Taylor, Norfolk, Va. (with Dr. James G. Johnson, Chv. Superintendent of Schools); Chv. Lumber Co.	
# of stories: 2	Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated
Are there any known threats to this property? None known of	

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.

Please see Continuation Sheet 4

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.

Ditto

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.

Ditto

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced?

Ditto

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.

Ditto

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.

Please see Continuation Sheet 5

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.

Ditto

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

Please see Continuation Sheet 6

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

Please see Continuation Sheet 20

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. Mrs. City of Charlottesville
 Ms. Miss Mr. Gary O'Connell, City Manager

P.O. Box 911 Charlottesville, Virginia (Name) (Firm) 22902
 (Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)
(434) 970-3101 (Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: *Gary O'Connell* Date: 6/8/08

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: () _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

Mr. Mrs.
 Ms. Miss Richard Thrift

403 Altamont Circle # 3 (Name) Charlottesville, Virginia (Firm) 22902
 (Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)
rthrift2222@hotmail.com (Email Address) none (Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: *Richard Thrift* Date: Jan. 22, 2008

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
 Miss Ms. Hon. Mr. Gary O'Connell, City Manager

City of Charlottesville (Name) P.O. Box 911 (Position)
 (Locality) (Address)
Charlottesville VA 22902 (City) (State) (Zip Code) (434) 970-3101 (Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Please see Continuation Sheet 19

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No
 Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes No

SITE DESCRIPTION NOTES/NOTABLE LANDSCAPE FEATURES

It is a city block in length, the McGuffey School site, with the building itself almost equal to it but which is set back about one hundred feet from the sidewalk fronting 2nd Street N.W.. Across a gradually sloping lawn (of some shade trees and heavy, flowering shubbery) as 2nd Street N.W., from the western reach of Jefferson Street, slowly descends to its junction with West Market Street (that forms the southern boundary of the property, behind a steepening retaining wall, as said thoroughfare itself descends in a westerly direction). The building, meanwhile, remains on level ground, rising two stories from a high basement to a "moderate pitch" hipped roof. From either its West Market Street corner or its West Jefferson Street corner (the corner more or less level with the lawn's breadth), the building poses a striking visual stance. A broad parade of steps, thrice broken by "plazas" lead up to the centered, single story portico, these bordered en route by some of the aforementioned shubbery. (The majority of this shubbery is planted along the foot of the basement wall.) Two ample walkways (the one on the north, nowadays, doubles as a "fire lane"; the other has its near-original iron pipe railing, on either side of it, in tact) traverse too, from the 2nd Street N.W. sidewalk, but along the opposite sides of the property to the building's north and south end porticos respectively (and on to the parking lot at the rear of the building). Abutting this north end walkway (and "fire lane") is a retaining wall - that begins, where the bordering shubbery here leaves off at a short flight of steps up to an off-street parking area, just as one approaches the north east corner of the building, is made of concrete but further on, once past the north west corner of the building, becomes one of russet-color stone, finely laid, that possibly stretched full length before the hillock it contained was considerably heightened, when looking directly across from the north portico, to form a shoulder (as well as that off-street parking area) for what has long been a wide entrance driveway for the McGuffey building and the more recent McGuffey Hill Condominiums. Along the uphill south end walkway, between it and West Market Street below, the ground falls away precipitously beneath a narrow fringe of spindly trees, vine-shrouded and held in check by the pipe railing, then by a wire fence stretching all the way back to a redpainted plywood shed - currently in use as an artist's studio - in the south western corner of the McGuffey building's parking lot. (This shed had earlier sat far back, in the area of the condominiums; and had

possibly been a gardening or tool shed for the school, or even a place to store playground equipment.)

Directly adjacent to the north of the McGuffey School (since 1975 the McGuffey Art Center) property, and across that wide entrance driveway (that quickly climbs, then descends, over a "hump"), and on a slightly higher elevation than both, is the McGuffey Park, a small (1.1 acre) tree-shaded, neighborhood park and children's playground (due for a massive makeover, with city and privately raised funds, in the spring of '07). The park too fronts 2nd Street N.W. from behind the remnants of a stone retaining wall of a pre-1930s residential property (the 1920 Sanborn Map shows a substantial house still on it), from 2nd Street N.W.'s junction with West High Street south to the corner of West Jefferson's termination and that aforementioned driveway directly across from it. (In 1945 this property was donated to the Charlottesville School Board and apparently from that time, until the McGuffey building ceased to function as a public school in 1974, was used as an extension of the school's playground.)

Forming something of a panoramic backdrop across the rear (to the west here) of both properties - the McGuffey Schoolsite and that of the McGuffey Park - and yet unobtrusively so, are the gable ends of the McGuffey Hill Condominiums (1983), a stretched out groupings of five clustered A-frame like gray painted gable-roofed rather "squat" dwellings with low off white stucco walls and matching semi-open carports in the same muted colors (all tree-shaded likewise as the park), these latter structures arranged as to present something of a low bulwark behind the McGuffey building's parking lot as well as closes off solidly the western boundary of the park, as the condominium cluster itself circumnavigates - from north to south - the western cusp of what was erstwhile known as Beck's Hill. The southern half of which had been the original playground to the school (along with the present parking lot behind the building, which together with the building and lawn fronting 2nd Street N.W.), or all that between the present entrance driveway - formerly, I might add, an extension of West Jefferson - and West Market Street, had been the Patterson family property (or what was referred to at the time as "the Patterson site") until purchased by the Charlottesville School Board in July of 1915 (at which time the Federal Era house and dependencies - one of which had previously housed part of the city's first public primary school - for while children - were torn down in preparation for the construction of the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School). A location - as Dr. James G. Johnson, Charlottesville's Superintendent of Schools and the force behind the building

of this "modern plant", described at the time to the local newspaper, The Daily Progress - "of ample size, approximately three and one fifth acres, giving an abundance of play space for eight hundred children; splended elevation assuring a free circulation of air and perfect drainage; accessibility to the main thoroughfares yet in a quiet zone free from the disturbances caused by an ever increasing tide of traffic."

The expanded view from the McGuffey School building's front portico, looking east (with a glance to the immediate northeast and southeast - between High and Market Streets) is the greater part of the whole of Historic Downtown Charlottesville (the Charlottesville and Albemarle County Courthouse Historic District and the Downtown and North Downtown Architectural Design Control District). A spread out area of late Federal Era originals, high and low Victorian, Greek Revivals, in particular one near perfect Classical Revival or Beau Art, a gargantuan Neo Gothic church (filling the block opposite the McGuffey Park along 2nd Street N.W.), two formal parks with notable equestrian statues and much Colonial Revival architectural examples to admire - besides the McGuffey School building, anchoring here its western most reaches - of which some is "pure" and others perhaps not quite so. (The most impressive of these Colonial Revivals - besides the fenestration on a church or two - and near equal in size - since it was extended to its present length in the 1930's - is the former Federal Building, and main post office, now the main branch of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, built in 1906, on West Market Street.) Looking south, one block over, is Charlottesville's celebrated Downtown Pedestrian Mall, it anchored at its western end by the glass and brick ediface of the Omni Hotel. (It was the Downtown Mall, created in 1977 out of the old West Main Street, and the regeneration of the McGuffey School building as the McGuffey Art Center in 1975, that did much to save the downtown area from going "derelict" in the 1980s, which has been duely acknowledged in print, and were most instrumental in Charlottesville receiving "All American City" status in 1979.)*

In an about face from the McGuffey School building's front portico, the downtown area's two major thoroughfares - West Market Street and West High Street, the first passing on the south side of the McGuffey School property and the second along the north side of McGuffey Park - converge at the bottom of McGuffey/Beck's Hill to enter streets travelling westward towards the University of Virginia and the Rugby Road Historic District respectively, about a mile or so hence.

*"Downtown Mall: Charlottesville's Public Square"

by John Yellig
The Daily Progress
June 25, 2006

RESOURCE COMPONENT INFORMATION

- Foundation: Poured concrete up to three feet in height from the basement floor, followed by a foot brick courses - "tarred" on the exterior - before ground level.
- Structure: Brick (exterior walls, basement interior walls and first and second floor longitudinal walls); wood (joists, floors above the basement, the walls between cloakrooms and classrooms and between cloak rooms and cloakrooms, and the rafters).
- Walls: Brick (running or stretcher bond, with free mix of darker and lighter bats; headers atop the water table; headers and "soldiers" used together in end elevation panels and as chimney decoration); cast stone (belt course above the water table, thresholds and window sills; columns and pilasters, splayed lintels with keystones; inset panels above first floor windows - on the facade - of "garlands"); and a wood entablature.
- Windows: Eight in groups of five, 9/9 (four on each floor); one 12/12 flanked by six pane side-lights; four cloakroom 4/4s; twelve basement 6/6s; and the fanlight over the front door, semi-circular and of fourteen panes. All sashes are of wood and are set in wood frames; and - except for the fanlight, which is fixed - are double hung/sliding. And all are original (minus a number of the original, wavy glass, panes).
- Porch: Tuscan portico of four cast stone columns and two pilasters that flank a double-leaf door set of raised panels that is topped by a semi-circular fanlight. The entablature is of wood beneath a flat tin covered roof. Its floor is of poured cement, and is reached by a broad flight of limestone steps (both steps and portico are flanked by a three foot brick wall capped with limestone blocks). A portico of less breadth and length, and at ground level, is on each end elevation as well.

Roof: Hipped, of "moderate" pitch, and covered with slate.

Chimney(s): Two actual (with "crowns") and eight "faux" (for "vitiating" air: part of the original heating and fresh air ventilation system), in groups of two (these latter joined together by "aprens" of brick courses), with flat decoration (headers and soldiers) and topped or capped by great slabs of limestone. In running or stretcher bond, like the walls of the building itself.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE

The Facade: Overview

The architectural style is Colonial Revival at its height. In general, that is: given that even the basic rules of proportion needed, in this particular case, to compromise with the essential requirements of what was to be a modern public school building in the construction of its facade. Which here more or less succeeded (when it is a given that most representations of this style are not "historically correct") in creating a harmony of the whole - in impression if hardly academically precise - not always found in the movement's precedents. Such is its collective effect. Roughly speaking, each of its halves, from ground level to chimney top, closely equals a triangle in two parts, as do the end pavilions from the water table to cornice. With the primary windows, in their single components, exhibiting a ratio of 1:2; the same goes for the singular secondary windows above the water table. The basement windows are about 1:1.5 and the double-leaf front door(s) is a square (and is almost two to one when including the fanlight). The pitch of the roof is about forty degrees or "moderate", hipped (as has been described), set upon a two story plus basement rectangular plan, about 1.5:4, and two rooms with a corridor between them deep. (It was suggested in contemporary school architecture manuals that a corridor should equal half the breadth of a classroom, which here it does.) And divided lengthwise in three pavilions (front and rear elevation of the building an exact facimile in this respect). A long center pavilion of the space of two classrooms on either side of a front entrance foyer (on the first floor, with the office beyond that), delicately accented by the slight (one foot) projection of the two end pavilions (they being complete with a miniscule forward raised hipped outline in the roof directly above them), and of one classroom each. All of which is broken by the shallow protuberance of a single story portico (Tuscan), with its full frontage rise of steps, that rounds out this balance of parts that achieves over all a loose, if no less visually pleasing symmetry. (The foregoing ratios, I must state, are "approximate" - as exact measurements have not been taken.)

The Facade: In detail

In the basement wall there are six windows on either side of the portico's foundation (on the rear elevation it is the brick enclosed stoop roof over the boiler room steps that divides them); and two windows flank each side of the north and south - or end elevation - porticos. Their wood frames set upon cast stone sills. Are 6/6 double hung sliding sashes, all original. And are topped by a continuous cast stone belt course (that caps as well the slightly projected brick course of water table headers inbetween). That is three windows apiece in the end pavilions, spaced uniformly with the parade of the classroom windows above; and six in the center pavilion, three on each side of the portico's foundation (on the rear elevation, the boiler room porch), that are placed asymmetrically, if matchingly so.

Above the water table, the first and second floors of the end pavilions have one set of windows each, in "groupings" of five, and are 9/9 double-hung sliding sashes. (All of the windows - sashes and frames, etc. - in the building - except for one which will be explained further on - are original, if minus a number of the early, wavy-glass panes.) In the center pavilion on the first floor, and flanking the portico, are one set of five so "grouped" windows that are likewise 9/9 double-hung sliding sashes. With two 4/4 double-hung sliding sash windows, slightly spaced apart, for lighting the back to back cloakrooms (artists' closets now) to each's adjoining classroom (now studio space). Which is repeated on the second floor. Except for the center window over the portico: a tri-partite window, with 12/12 double-hung sliding sashes in the middle aperture and flanking sidelights of six panes a piece - something of a "Palladian window variant" - and slightly shorter, heightwise, from the bottom upward, than the rest. (Originally, there was decorative "grillwork" in the space of those sidelights: visible in the 1916, 1918 and 1928 photographs; in the 1936 photographs the present sidelights are already in place. Dr. James G. Johnson, in describing the proposed plant's heating and ventilation system, wrote of "an abundant supply of fresh warm air is forced into each room by a motordriven fan from the warm air chamber located in the basement and supplied with fresh air taken through shafts from a point over the front entrance insuring freedom from pollution of any kind.". Directly behind these sidelights today are small, boxlike closets, complete with narrow, paneled doors, but their walls are still tin-lined and the floors in them - though a close match with the maple flooring of the former library room here - are obviously "built-ins".) This triple window (center) arrangement is repeated on both the first and second floors of the rear elevation (and both of these too are slightly shorter, from the bottom up, than those on either side of them),

only here the sidelights - separate windows altogether, with a short space of brick course between each - were originally 6/6 double-hung sliding sashes (the top sashes of those on the second floor were removed sometime before 1975 for the installation of exhaust fans; those on the first floor, replaced after the fire of 1980, are 4/6 and the central window is 8/12, double-hung but with top sashes fixed; the second floor central window itself remains the original 12/12 double-hung window with sliding sashes). The single tall windows directly above the north and south end elevation porticos respectively - a matching set of 12/12 double-hung sliding sashes to a set - are for lighting the stairs within (and before the 1975 built "firewalls", the first and second floor longitudinal corridors as well). The twenty one light, fixed sash transom above the end elevation set of doors below the latter (and under each's portico roof) once lit the lengths of the north and south longitudinal corridors in the basement likewise.

All windows aforementioned have cast stone sills. All first floor windows have cast stone splayed lintels/with keystones (including the north and south end elevation windows above the porticos). Between the first and second story primary windows (the five-grouped classroom/now studio windows) are slightly oblong cast stone panels inset with a garland of grapes raised in relief. (These are not repeated on the rear elevation.) On the north and south end elevation walls there are large double profiles or panels, in the brick itself, of equal breadth but the top one about a fourth of the height of the much taller bottom one - to break the flat expanse on either side of the respective portico and tall, double set of a window above it. Which are defined by a rectangle of double course raised headers on the outer perimeter (the outside course projecting further than that of the inside course) and a single course of stretcher ends, recessed lengthwise, to delineate the inner profile.

The single story front portico rests upon a brick abutment (with poured concrete flooring), equal to the first floor level, with three foot side walls flanking the portico itself that are capped with laid blocks of limestone (that descend to buttress the long flight of limestone steps); the flat, tin-covered roof and wood entablature (with "McGuffey School" in dark metallic letters embossed across its frieze) is supported by four Tuscan columns (with two pilasters in relief against the wall of the building itself), of cast stone (the north and south end elevation porticos, both narrower in length and shorter in depth, are supported by two columns only - with pilasters - and are more or less at ground level: the south portico beginning so, but

but is reached by a short flight of limestone steps, with brick piers flanking the steps that are also topped by limestone blocks). All three porticos were originally crowned by low, classical balustrades of wood that are shown still in place in a 1959 photograph of the building (but by 1975 had been removed). Above the set of front doors (a double-leaf) is a fixed, semi-circular fanlight of fourteen panes (both door and fanlight are surrounded by an architrave of solid proportions). The "1800" style wooden doors have raised panels, six to each (likewise the north and south portico doors - and all affixed with heavy brass hardware, on the inside as well as on the outside). Over the north and south portico doors is the aforementioned fixed, rectangular transom of twenty one lights. (The doors to the boiler room steps, entered directly from what was once the playground and now the parking lot, on the rear elevation, are a heavy, also paneled, pair with a single square window light in each, but are considerably smaller in size.)

The entablature, of wood, which begins directly above the second story primary windows, a strong, well defined "Georgian" architrave, rises to a fine modillion cornice that is most impressive, its parts in perfect proportion to each other (and behind which is the hidden trough of a "Baltimore gutter"). The hipped roof, already described, is massive - and on such a building might appear over-bearing - but it is complimentary here in balance with the whole. It is covered in slate laid in a "course pattern". (All of the materials used in the construction of the McGuffey School would have been produced locally - of which there would have been a prodigious supply.)

Of the chimney's there are two actual ones and eight "faux" ones - or air vents, the latter (with a classroom on each floor sharing one each, along with the original toilet rooms and playrooms in the basement). The two actual chimneys, with slightly accented crowns (a relief of verticle stretchers or "soldiers" topped by a course of headers) and placed about ten feet apart, rise from the boiler room in the basement to just behind the ridge of the roof, with the dead center of the building half way between each (originally there were two furnances - of the "horizontal" variety, most likely - given the space allowed between these two chimneys and the fact that such were recommended as best compatible with the original ventilated hot and fresh air component to the building's heating system; one apparently for each side of the building). The "faux" chimneys - or shafts for venting the building of spent air (or were before the interior registers were "boarded up") - are flat walled oblong boxlike stacks rising from the attic interior to the height of the actual chimneys (without definative crowns,

only a smooth course of standing stretchers or "soldiers" at the crest, with likewise rim of headers, that are ultimately capped with great stone slabs resting upon corner piers) and are situated at each end of the center pavilion, on either side of the roof's ridge, in groups of two, their narrowest profiles foremost, which are joined by slightly indented brick "aprons", rising from flashing to crest across the space of several feet separating them - as supports, presumably, as these stacks, as before stated, are of brick only from the attic beams up.

There has been little to no discernable alteration to the facade - or to the end elevations - of the building since it was constructed in 1915/16. An emergency exit was cut low into the south side of the portico's abutment or foundation, where it junctures with the basement wall proper (an inset alcove, with a double set of doors set back further into it, a window in each, from which railed cement steps ascend quickly to the ground level: built probably in the late 1950s or early 1960s - or perhaps as late as when the building was used as a special learning center for the "educatable mentally handicapped" from 1966 to 1974); that even without the shrubbery in front of it would be barely discernable from the street. Otherwise, it was only the replacement of those air vent grills with sidelights, before 1936 already, and the removal of the balustrades atop all three porticos sometime after 1959.

A major repair job in 2001 saw the front portico's abutment and walls about sixty percent rebuilt, including the steps and "plazas" down to the street (which, in the case of the limestone steps, may not have been the first time in the history of the building); the south portico's steps too were replaced, but the brick piers, for the most part, only repointed. In 1999 all of the chimney stacks - "faux" and actual - had extensive repair work done to them as well. In which much of the brick courses near the tops of each were dismantled, cleaned, and re-set. In 1995/96 an elevator "housing" was affixed to the rear elevation of the building, on the north end of the center pavilion. A square block tower. But it does not break through the entablature, is attached by an intermediary "foyer" that comes up just to the latter.

Addendum: the brick enclosed "porch" on the rear elevation (that covers the broad - and steep - flight of steps down into the boiler room) is not bonded to the wall of the building proper (its splayed eaves are of the craftmans style) though the color and size of the brick courses, as well as the pointing work - where it hasn't been repaired in recent years - is pretty analogous with the original.

Interior: Overview

The essential layout of the building - as planned in 1915 - remains in tact. As does most of the material that went into it - about ninety percent would be a safe guess. Fixtures have been replaced, in some cases several times over. Rooms have been partitioned (and in a couple of instances widened). A wall or two has been partially opened up between rooms. The longitudinal corridors have been effectively closed off at each end. The original heating system's air vents and registers have been sealed off, with much of its remnants remaining but no longer in use. But the basic texture is in place still. And where things have had to be removed, they have been replicated fairly faithfully. Structurally speaking, that is.

Over the years "change" occurred as needs arose and municipal codes demanded, tampering little with overall appearance. But in 1995/96 the building's interior experienced its most fundamental "renovation" to date -- and the majority of that was out of sight. The heating system was revamped, with all plumbing and electrical wiring replaced. And a sprinkler system installed throughout. Which saw too the replacement of the original porcelain fixtures that had remained - as well as that which was not so original. The most significant alteration though was due to the installation of the elevator. Because it necessitated the removal of the cloakrooms/artists' closets, two each on the first and second floor, one over the other (as this space between each classroom/studio are back to back with each other), as well as a portion of the original boys' toilet space in the basement, to create a corridor (off each floor's longitudinal corridor) to the elevator's "foyer" (which is entered through openings made in the exterior wall - on the north-west end of the center pavilion's rear elevation - where the windows of the removed cloakroom/closets had been in place - or, in the basement's case, where one of the basement windows had been in place). The architect for this was James Farmer of Farmer, Pluckett and Warner of Charlottesville, with construction work by the Chrenshaw Corporation of Culpeper, Virginia. All of which was to bring the building completely up to code and give the handicapped access to each floor, as according to Federal regulations.

Interior: Basement

In both the north and south basement (the boiler room, currently in use still as such, the former fan room and warm air chamber, now storage rooms and a janitor's closet, divides the two equally into separate halves) all of the floors and original brick walls are

as they were when construction of the building was completed in August of 1916 (as is likewise in those middle rooms aforementioned). However repartitioned these spaces in the interior. In the south basement, the south end of the girls playroom had, by the early 1950s, become a raised stage (with a narrow, step down access to it off the landing at the south entrance door); as had the far end of the longitudinal corridor been partitioned off (both of these of wood construction) to create a small classroom. In the 1960's the girls restroom was partitioned - with cinderblock - to create shower stalls (in the 1980s this room was further partitioned - in wood and sheet rock - to create a photographer's darkroom). In the boys restroom in the north basement there was a similiar restructuring (using cinder block). But in the case of the boys restroom a portion of it was too blocked off to create a pantry for the kitchen installed even earlier perhaps in what had been the janitor's room. Across the longitudinal corridor from these, the boys playroom became the school cafeteria as well, with no structural changes at that time (when hot lunches became a standard within the school system). But since 1975 has been devided, with wood and sheetrock partitioning, into four studio spaces (using only the original doors - two - for access). The girls playroom - which would eventually share its space with the school auditorium - has, since 1975, been devided into three studio spaces, again using only the original doors for access (in the case of the entrance to the studio created out of the former stage space, it is not so "original"; the second of the two original doors to the former girls playroom was blocked off when that classroom was created out of the far end of the longitudinal corridor here). Artists's studios and storage space occupy the former girls restroom here in the south basement. During the 1995/96 "renovation" that portion of the boys restroom in the north basement that earlier had been converted into a pantry became the new elevator corridor; while the rest of the space was divided between the new men's and women's restrooms and an artist's studio. These spaces, as today, recieved direct radiation heat, but long ago - before 1975 - the air vents to the "faux" chimneys (in these former playrooms and restrooms spaces) were sealed off.

All of the original interior walls in the basement were of brick - and except for the longitudinal corridors' walls remain unplastered, only painted (as are the insides of the exterior walls), but for the new elevator corridor walls which have been sheetrocked. (The same goes for any cinderblock partitioning as well.) The flooring is of sealed squares of portland cement (as is that at the north and south entrance landings, half a flight up). Original are all of the doors (other than a metal "fire

door", the new restrooms's doors and the elevator doors), are of wood, with raised panels. As are their surrounds and baseboards. (The original door to the boys restroom - paneled at the top, with bottom louvers - is now the door to the artist's studio in the north end portion of that space. The one to the former girls restroom was removed after 1975 to create an open corridor to separate artists's workspaces within.) Window architraves too are original, with some painted and others wood color still, if darkened by long ago oiling or varnishing. In the new restrooms and the elevator corridor there are drop-ceilings, but are at the original height (ten feet) elsewhere - if clustered more so than ever before with tubing and piping. The lighting now is fluorescent throughout (but for the north longitudinal corridor which is track), though in the ceilings - in the longitudinal corridors at least - some remnants of "connections" for possibly globe lights, hanging or not, remain. In the now studio spaces are still the hanging fluorescent fixtures (giant size upside down icecube trays) that have been in the building since before 1950, when these areas were playrooms, auditorium, restrooms, kitchen, etc.. And the original school safe - though only recently returned to the building - with "McGuffey Primary School" written in ornate goldleaf lettering on it - can be found today (though originally it probably sat in the office) under the north basement stairs.

A "firewall" (built in 1975 out of wood and sheetrock, with a wood door, and replaced in 1995/96 with more fire retardent material, with a metal door) separates both the north and south basement longitudinal corridor from the flight of stairs that terminated it at the building's each end (which is repeated for the full length longitudinal corridors - now galleries - on the first and second floor as well); from which is a short flight of steps up to the building's north and south end elevation entrance landings. Though the baseboards here are painted, the facing/architrave surrounding the door(s) and transom are of that long ago darkned natural wood color by oiling or varnishing; as is that at the tall, double set of a single window on the landing that breaks the flight between first and second floors. The double-leaf set of doors are the exact same as those at the front portico; and though were white originally are now painted, inside and out, a colonial red. As for lighting, it is all fluorescent now, since 1995/95, replacing the hanging globe lamps - which, if were not original, were in the same place as were the originals.

Interior: First Floor

The first ten feet or so inside the front entrance foyer has an arched ceiling that follows the contours of the fanlight over the doorway (and is lower in height -

until the foyer expands to its full fourteen foot width and thirteen foot pitch), with a hanging globe lamp hanging still in the place where the original hung. It is behind these walls, just inside the doorway, the now closed off air shafts descended from the "closets" directly above to the fan room (and warm air chamber) below. High upon the return walls inside the expanded foyer are the boarded up grills for warm and fresh air, with original surrounds in place. The fanlight's architrave, as well as that of the doorway (all of one piece, as it is with all three doorways), is in the original natural darkened wood color, from old varnish or oiling. As is all the woodwork in the foyer here and the longitudinal corridor beyond: baseboards, the tall, single paneled classroom/studio doors and their surrounds (including a "dust flue", at baseboard level to the left of the office door). What is not of wood any longer is the front piece to the former office, now the art center's reception area, and two doors further down the longitudinal corridor, the one to the Main Gallery and another to the former 2nd Street Gallery space now a dance studio (the metal doors in the "firewalls", with a square "lookthrough" window, is repeated here - as in the basement and on the 2nd floor - at each end of the longitudinal corridor). These were of wood and original until 1995/96 - minus the office door that was damaged in a fire in 1980 (but at the time replaced with a facsimile). This front piece to the former office was and still is a tri-partite door with flanking windows arrangement (though the transom above the door is now "fixed"; and the flanking windows, though divided, now descend to the baseboard level); and like the other metal doors (with glass inlaid) is considered to be fire retardant. The original woodwork is of heart pine; the floors are maple. The plastered walls and ceiling are original, though there is patchwork evidence in the ceiling due to repairs but mostly to renovation work, and are painted black to down to the picture railing (still in good use as this is the art center's Lower Gallery). Lighting here is track lighting, but there are at each end of said corridor a modern version of a hanging globe lamp (of which several must have once hung down this longitudinal corridor). Fluorescents light the elevator corridor, from a drop ceiling. The floor here is the old maple of the former cloakrooms, with a matching patch down the center - towards the elevator foyer - where the dividing wall had once stood (also off of which the northeast end classroom is now entered - instead as originally from the longitudinal corridor).

"There are sixteen classrooms," (to quote here from Dr. James G. Johnson), "eight on each floor. On the first floor there are four classrooms each twenty five by thirty two feet and also four classrooms twenty four by thirty two feet; the light area equals twenty

five percent per centum of the floor space for each room." Except for the Main Gallery these classrooms are now the studios for two artists each, all but two have been devided by impermanent partition (woodframe and plasterboard) that does not reach to the ceiling - from which, in all but one, hang those 1940ish fluoresent fixtures. Here all the wood-work - including windows's architrave - is original and of the same natural wood hue as described elsewhere; as is the maple flooring. There are new heating fixtures since 1995/96 which replaced those which were not originals themselves, which was the case throughout the building). The black window roll shades that came with the building in 1975 were already dryrotten, and are not the white, gossimerlike shades of Dr. Johnson's recommendation seen in those very early photographs. The porcelean handbasin and water fountain fixtures in each cloakroom were, in 1995/96, replaced with standing sinks. The warm/fresh air outlets above the blackboards at the back of each room, as well as the spent air egress at baseboard level below them, have been long plastered over (in the former cloakrooms as well). Blackboards themselves have been wallboarded over, in most rooms, leaving but the chalk troughs in evidence, but the surrounds that framed them remain. Likewise remaining are the long handled hooks for pulling down the top window sashes. And in the floors one can see still the holes where the desks were screwed to them. It is only in the room that is the Main Gallery, in the cloakrooms between it and the former 2nd Street Gallery space and now a dance studio, and in the former office space opposite has there been any major alteration. Beyond the tri-partite office door replacement is the former office that, following the fire of 1980, was devided into a smaller office at the rear and a shop/reception area out front - that opened up into the Main Gallery (as the fire started in an electrical outlet, destroying a portion of the wall here). Tracklighting was added to both, and in the Main Gallery all reminants of the former classroom were obliterated, with walls and woodwork whitepainted (an all new maple floor too at the time replaced - in both rooms - the originals that were severely fire damaged); in the cloakroom spaces an office, in the early 1980s, was created for the 2nd Street Gallery, as well as a passage between the two and a McGuffey Main Gallery closet. In the now dance studio space too all trace of the former class room is gone - but for, in both, that range of five grouped windows letting in, as Dr. Johnson wrote elsewhere, "an abundance of natural light". That; and, of course, the picture railing.

Interior: The stairs

On the building's north and south ends, at the terminus of the open-ended longitudinal galleries on each floor,

the stairs, as Dr. Johnson described them, were "designed for ease and comfort being five and one half feet wide, have six inch risers and thirteen inch treads.". And so they are, except the treads are twelve inches today and are of soapstone. When at least one person who attended school there, in the 30s, remember them as being of wood; others are not sure. Most remember them as being of soapstone, as is the floor of the landing between first and second floor. And set in a cast iron, closed stringer frame, with cast iron rails and banisters, as they have been for certain since the early 1950s (with baseboards of wood descending on the wall side - and a molded wooden handrail, of maple, as well, on both sides, secured by iron supports and set at a lower height than the cast iron railings themselves. Which, before the 1930s, may all have been of wood. But it must be pointed out that all of the modern school architectural manuals of the period called for cast iron railings (and staircases), all of them citing tragic cases when in panic during some emergency wooden railings inevitably gave way and students were plunged to their deaths. But whether original or not they are, like Dr. Johnson wrote, fine stairs, easy to ascend or descend for child and grownup alike.

Interior: Second floor

It is a facsimile of the first floor, in both its original features and subsequent alterations. Besides the 1995/96 elevator corridor, the circa 1940s restrooms (divided out of that original rest room for teachers: the school "infirmary" as well as a lounge) was totally removed - and reconstructed, for wheelchair access, which called for taking a foot or so of wall too from the classroom/studios on either side of it (where the old fixtures and the Roman tile floor - of set stones - were replaced), with internal set exhaust fans in the drop-ceiling and fluorescent lighting. And creating a "foyer" where it once opened (the two separate doors of the interim period) into the longitudinal corridor. Here once may have existed a repeat of the original frontage of the former office space directly below (both being between the two actual chimneys), when it was predominately a teachers's lounge. And identical to the somewhat broader one still in its original composition, with a transom that can be opened and closed, fronting what was the library room directly across from it.

Interior: Attic

A Cavernous space: now the hub of the new sprinkler system (since 1995/96), through which rises the actual chimneys and supports the base of the "faux" chimneys. It is reached by a ladder to a square trap door in the

ceiling of what had originally been that restroom for teachers on the second floor (and now the foyer to the 1995/96 revision of an interior men's and women's restrooms in this space). Is unused - and apparently has always so been.

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Interview

Jean Sampson, McGuffey Arts Association renting member
and for seven years a McGuffey Elementary
School student in the 1950s

WHY ARE YOU SEEKING AN EVALUATION OF THIS PROPERTY

Because it is long overdue, and deserves it. Simply that. The McGuffey School building is an architectural gem. In and of itself relevant to the purpose for which it was erected. Wherein lies its historical significance. The description of it found in the National Register nominating form (1980) for the Charlottesville and Albemarle County Courthouse Historic District is scant, as it could only be, amidst the covering of almost three hundred properties, thus hardly doing the building justice. Particulars on file with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources are likewise, with some errors left over from the 1980 District survey. The 2005 DOWNTOWN AND NORTH DOWNTOWN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN CONTROL DISTRICT STUDY by architectural historian Maral S. Kalbian is more detailed (with a short historical overview of the building as a public school, from which I have quoted). But again, a district survey. Ms. Kalbian though apparently believed that the building deserved more, when in that survey she wrote that the building could be eligible for individual listing.

I have been intimately connected with the building for the past thirty one years, through one of the artists who founded the McGuffey Art Center. And a neighbor, almost next door to it, for the past twenty years. I'm a writer, not an architectural historian. But the sociological history of the human habitat, as it were, has always fascinated me. I suppose it was my reading of Dr. James G. Johnson's description of the proposed "plant" (in his 1915 article to the Daily Progress that he republished in his "History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936), of his "dream school" if you will, that first shaped visceral feelings and aesthetic favor into a conscious academic perspective. And, over time, brought me to read more about the origins of his concept. (And, recently emboldened by Ms. Kalbian's survey, boned up on the subject in detail.) As it was indeed a deliberately conceived "modern" public school building at a decisive period in the formation of an educational architecture in the U.S.. And was so designed that it could absorb change yet keep its original features essentially intact. So upon entering it today one might readily sense its built for purpose merge seamlessly into that of its present occupancy.

I initially asked the City of Charlottesville, its owner, or the city's Preservation and Design Planner, Mary Joy Scala, if might the city had such plans (to seek an individual nomination of the building to the Virginia Landmarks and National Register of Historic Places), and she said, no, and that I was welcome to have a go at it.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

In name only has the McGuffey School building any association with a "historic personage". And that is William Holmes McGuffey, professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Virginia during the third quarter of the nineteenth century and author of the McGuffey Reader series. It, the name, was the first, and only, choice of Dr. James G. Johnson, Charlottesville's superintendent of schools from 1909 to 1945, who conceived of this "modern plant" and personally oversaw its design and execution: "When plans were being matured for the construction of a primary school three things gave me much concern: the site upon which this structure was to be erected; the plans for the building; and the name that it should bear." For which Dr. Johnson solicited a number of educators as well as state and local officials for support of his choice. From the president of the University of Virginia at the time, Edwin A. Alderman, came this reply: "Permit me to congratulate you upon the near prospects of a handsome building to care for the children of the primary grades of the school. This is a noble achievement which can not be too highly commended. Secondly, I would care to congratulate you upon the thought that has come to you of naming this building after William Holmes McGuffey, a pioneer in the intelligent guidance of the child's mind and a noble name in the educational history of the University of Virginia and of the State of Virginia. I very cordially and earnestly approve of your idea of giving McGuffey's name to your new primary school, and hope that the members of your school board will quickly see and appreciate the beauty and felicity of such a name for the new building. It will not be necessary to explain to visitors from all over the Union the reasons for giving such a name to such a building." From U.S. Senator Thomas S. Martin: "He was the advocate of a public school system in Virginia, and if I am not mistaken, made a canvas of the State in promotion of that idea. I do not think that you could possibly adopt a more appropriate name for the new school." And from Judge R.T.W. Duke, Jr.: "Permit me to suggest, however, that it be called the William H. McGuffey School. Dr. McGuffey was hardly ever know by his middle name."

The chosen site too had symbolic meaning to Dr. Johnson, quite apart from its physical attributes (a "splended elevation assuring a free circulation of air and perfect drainage; acessibility to the main thorough-fares yet in a quiet zone free from the disturbances caused by an ever increasing tide of traffic"). Upon the two to one ratification of the bond issue by the

city voters to construct the building, the School Board purchased, in July of 1915, the Patterson property on 2nd Street N.W., which besides an ample Federal Era house included a small brick dependency where first, in 1857, a Major Horace W. Jones began his "school for boys", and later, in 1871-74 was one of the initial locations of the city's first public primary schools (for white children), known as Miss M. Virginia Patterson's School (or School # 4, a one room affair like were, more or less, the other three). Following the ground breaking on August 24, 1915 (Dr. Johnson dug the first wheelbarrow full of dirt; he was quite familiar with digging he was to remind his listeners as he grew up on a farm in Russell County), the structure, along with the rest, was immediately torn down, the bricks from it cleaned and afterwards incorporated into the rising basement of the McGuffey School. Which Dr. Johnson saw as its "material and spiritual successor"; "Years before the Patterson site was selected, I habitually went to the northeast corner room on the third floor annex to Midway School and would gaze out of a window at the top of the hill and visualize the building that finally was erected on the Patterson site."

One year later, on Wednesday, September 6, 1916, The Daily Progress carried the following story: "This community is familiar with the expression, 'that an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man', having it beautifully and strikingly illustrated in our University of Virginia which is the everlasting proof of the genius of Thomas Jefferson. We find it again aptly illustrated in our newly completed primary school at the west end of Jefferson Street, named in honor of the great educator, William H. McGuffey. To Dr. James G. Johnson is due the credit for the completion of this up-to-date and splendid addition to the educational facilities of this city and section. Not only content with obtaining the very best professional skill in the planning and erection of the building, Dr. Johnson has made the perfect construction of this school house his special interest and pride. Not a day has passed during the past twelve months since the first spadefull of earth was moved for the foundation and the first brick laid, that has not seen him present at the work at all hours of the day when his duties permitted, seeing to it that nothing was done in a careless manner, or any act omitted to make the work perfect in every particular. With him it was a labor of love and the finished ediface, which will start the coming generations of Charlottesville's youth on the road to learning, is a monument to his faithfulness and zeal in his profession." ("The School Board.....selected the firm of architects recommended by me, Ferguson, Calrow and Taylor of Norfolk, Virginia. R.E.Lee Taylor of this firm, actively worked

with me until the plans were completed and ready for the opening bids, at which time Charles Calrow of the above firm took personal charge of the commission and with him, a man of understanding heart, the construction of McGuffey School was carried through.") That "bright September morning", the Progress article would continue, had seen a column of eight hundred primary grades children entering McGuffey School on "the first day it was occupied", the moment captured by Rufus W. Holsinger, the photographer, "between the hours of ten and eleven". The line is said to have reached back all the way to Midway School, their departure point, a quarter mile distant. (Midway School, built in the 1880s, had been Charlottesville's sole white school up to this time; while a two story, eight room building in the area where the National Historic registered Jefferson School original now stands was the city's sole school for African-american children.) Where their teachers then lead them to their new classrooms. City officials, with Dr. Johnson at their head, had formed a receiving line along that parade of steps and "plazas" before the front portico (the dedicatory address is said to have been given by Dr. William M. Thornton, Dean of the Department of Engineering at the University of Virginia), and a "large crowd of parents and patrons" had lined the street - many of whom (several hundred, it was reported) would enter to inspect the building for themselves, offering "numberless expressions of praise and gratification".

The McGuffey School experienced several "firsts", in a local context. Such as the first primary school in the city (for white pupils) built exclusively for that purpose. As well as the first "modern school" all of one piece so conceived and appointed. And had, from the beginning, the first woman to hold the office of school principal in the city, Miss Carrie C. Burnley (from 1916 to 1945). It would house the office of the superintendent of schools (Dr. Johnson, from 1916 to 1945) and be the location of Charlottesville's school board meetings. It would have been used too for civic and educational related gatherings: the parents and teachers association and the like. Under Dr. Johnson's guidance, the school regularly put out a newsletter called "The McGuffey Reader" (It is from his "History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936" in an October and November 1936 edition that much of the information related herein was gleaned). And it was from his office in the McGuffey School that Dr. Johnson went on to conceive, and - with Charles Calrow, his architect of choice - plan and oversee the building of, during his tenure, several more primary schools of architectural ingenuity in the city (in 1931, with the addition of Clark and Venable schools, McGuffey School would become an elementary school, housing now grades one through seven, as the others too did at that time, if they weren't already before). In anticipation

of the growing demand for public education by both an increasing populace, locally in particular, and the mandate of the times. As he put it: "Later Mr. Calrow had charge of the planning of Venable School.....and George Rogers Clark School. In this connection, it is entirely appropriate that I should pay a well-merited tribute to this skillful architect who for twenty one years has been my co-worker in developing a group of elementary school buildings." "Plants" modeled very much after the McGuffey School's design (and with the experience accrued from its being the longest in use), but with some contemporary modifications built in to meet new needs, or in anticipation of them (and if as a sign of the times, the facades are "weightier", reflecting perhaps a national norm in the wake of the First World War; a sense of lightness or openness, even grace, an optimism if you will, philosophically speaking, that the McGuffey School facade appears to exude is missing from these take offs from the original). (I might add too that Dr. Johnson pushed for the erection - with vigorous support, and non too little prodding, by the local Africian-american community - of the new Jefferson School building of 1926, though the construction of it ultimately suffered some cutbacks, he writes, from his and Charles Calrow's original blueprint, when apparently the School Board rejected the need for additional funding.) For fifty eight years the McGuffey School was a participant in the history of public education in Charlottesville, through two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War 1950s, then through the movement to desegregate public schools in the 1960s, a microcosm no less of the nation's writ large. "It had been an all-white school for most of its history," writes architectural historian Maral S. Kalbian in her 2005 DOWNTOWN AND NORTH DOWNTOWN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN CONTROL DISTRICT STUDY, "but with efforts to desegrate in the mid-1960s, it ultimately became a primarily black school." It "ceased to operate as an elementary school in 1966 and was converted to a racially integrated Special Education Center for mentally retarded but educatable children." Which "was an overall plan to complete the desegregation of Charlottesville's public schools. In the mid-1970s, McGuffey ceased to function as a school and was converted to the McGuffey Art Center which it remains today." A city appointed committee in conjunction with the North Downtown Neighborhood Association agreed with the idea (which was made official with the city council's vote of approval) to lease the building - it had been laying vacant for well over a year already - to the newly formed McGuffey Arts Association who would clean it up, paint its interior and bring it up to code (building firewalls, etc.); and maintain it as a (for profit and self governing) local artists cooperative, whose rent to the city would cover utility

bills and the cost of general maintainance, with the stipulation that the building would be open to the public five and one half days a week (and the former classrooms as well as the basement area - that had been turned into artists's studios - seventeen and one half hours a week). Thus it opened its doors again, with much fanfare in October 1975 as the McGuffey Art Center, an institution that has become a precedent in its own right over the past thirty one years, known both throughout the State and nationally.

So much then for the general - or social - history of the building. Which one might argue has the individual relevance of one of the poet Thomas Gray's tombstones in that venerable country church yard. Without intent to denigrate. The building's true historical significance or uniqueness is in its own being - in the thought behind and the execution of "the plant" itself. As conceived by Dr. Johnson and his chosen architects, R.E.Lee Taylor and Charles Calrow, the McGuffey School building was a calculated prototype, and is one of the finest examples of its period in educational architecture in the United States. An era when educator and draftman had only recently begun to work in partinership (where it would become the rule rather than the exception) in order to create the "modern" or "progressive" primary and secondary public school facility (which was to be come a state legislated standard) to meet what was a fast growing demand. (By the turn of the 20th century public school enrollment was rising by twenty five percent per decade.) Where a scientific philosophy and the physical form coalesced - however eclectic - in a nuts and bolts sense. And to a great degree this is why the McGuffey School building, viable still, remains in vintage condition, and is near virtually intact as it was originally built.

"Let the school building, then, be solidly constructed, thoroughly fireproof, abundantly lighted, with adaqueate, straight halls and ample stairways, having sunshine and access for the outer air in every room besides abundant forced ventilation; let it be cheerful and attractive without and within, well placed and supplied with adaqueate playgrounds and pleasant surroundings, and it will not only be a source of pride, but a blessing to the community, as well as credit to its designer." Frank Irving Cooper here, in THE PLANNING OF SCHOOL HOUSES published in MODERN SCHOOL HOUSES (a series of "Authoriative Articles on Planning and Sanitation, Heating and Ventilation", 1910, edited by A.D.F. Hamlin, professor of architecture at Columbia University, among others), could easily have been describing the McGuffey School. ("The classrooms are cared for by direct radiation to overcome losses through exposed walls and windows while an abundant supply of fresh warm air is

forced into each room by a motor driver fan from a warm air chamber in the basement.....the foul air is removed from each room through ventilating flues that lead out to the open air above the roof.....all other rooms, including the corridors, are supplied with direct radiation." Dr. Johnson in an article to The Daily Progress, July 14, 1915.) As could have W.G. Bruce, also in 1910, in his SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE: A HANDY MANUAL FOR THE USE OF ARCHITECTS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES, when he wrote: "The building of a school house involves an obligation - an educational obligation - if you will - in that the accepted ideas in beauty, grace and dignity in architecture shall be carried out." This latter work without doubt (Bruce was as well the editor of the AMERICAN SCHOOL BOARD JOURNAL) influenced Dr. Johnson (the original edition is still in the stacks in Alderman Library at the University of Virginia - Dr. Johnson's alma mater, I forgot to mention earlier on) when he writes in 1936 "I studied the plans of between four and five hundred school buildings in different parts of the country through actual visits and through plans published in the SCHOOL BOARD JOURNAL and in all the books on school architecture I could lay my hands upon. I tabulated the best features in all of these buildings and stood for the selection of a firm of architects that would be able to put my ideal into concrete shape."

The McGuffey School building, as constructed, would contain just about all of the requisite features (and then some) that these guide books and academic journals proscribed. From the big picture to the most minute. Such as the demensions of the classrooms (elsewhere described in detail), determining the number of desks in them (each classroom at the McGuffey School seated forty five pupils, the desks secured to the floor), as well as the "correct" amount of natural light (in the McGuffey School's case five percent more than that required as "the light area equals twenty five percent percentum of the floor space for each classroom") which would always fall over the left shoulder no matter on which side of the building said classroom was located ("Half the rooms in the building have eastern and half western exposures. This plan of orientation assures an abundance of sunlight at some time during the day, a thing that is imperative for proper sanitation."); rooms that were, as already mentioned, both direct radiation heated as well as with warm air mixed with fresh air ("taken through shafts from a point above the front entrance.") from an in-let alcove above the blackboards at the back of the classrooms, with out-let registers at baseboard level below for expelling it once spent; with likewise heated and ventilated cloakrooms ("There are two open entrances to each cloakroom from the classroom, but no entrance from the corridor; this puts the supervision of these rooms under the eye of

the teacher."), that were complete with water fountains, handbasins, racks and shelves for articles of clothing and lunch pails, even umbrella stands, and each with their own window for a direct source of natural light. "The main or longitudinal corridors run north to south; they are twelve feet wide in the basement and on the first and second floor" too were of the designated width (and, like the classrooms, requisite height: thirteen feet), though in the McGuffey School the doors all opened into them, except for the office and the second floor library room doors (which certain educational authorities had cautioned against: it didn't give the teacher enough "control", they argued, in an emergency). And were "open-ended" - these corridors were - to the well lit well of stairs at each end of the building ("with no protruding obstructions of any kind"), which were naturally lit, that is, from top floor to basement level, with ceiling hung supplementary electric fixtures. With the steps themselves easily conforming to the recommended dimensions ("Designed for ease and comfort, being five and one half feet wide, having six inch risers and thirteen inch treads, the runs relieved by a spacious landing half way between the floors"). Besides the building itself being built solidly of brick, as recommended, the boiler room was made "fire proof" ("The boilers are enclosed in a chamber that is entirely fireproof reducing the danger from fire to a minimum"). The two toilet rooms and play rooms (located in the basement, at each end of the building, as they were at McGuffey School, was not normally sanctioned - most definitely not in "the northern sections of the country" or in enclosed city blocks, for obvious reasons), each being "thoroughly lighted and ventilated", the toilet rooms in particular "with all fixtures being of the most approved automatic type" (Dr. Johnson would further describe the basement's lighting at McGuffey School, in its entirety, as "even better than that of the usual classroom in Virginia school buildings"). The boiler room, coal room, janitor's room, fresh air fan room and warm air chamber (the basement's "center" and rear half of the center pavilion) together separated the toilet rooms - the one for the girls at the south end and the one for the boys at the north (as so were the play rooms respectively), both of which were twenty two by forty four feet - so that "absolute privacy for each sex is guaranteed" (well into the 1950s, at McGuffey School, the boys's entrance was through the doors under the north portico and the girls's those under the south portico, that was also highly recommended by those "modern" school manuals). The library room, on the second floor, was essentially a "special instruction room" where "special individual work" with a particular student could take place ("Every school should have one," wrote Dr.

Johnson). The rest room for teachers, directly across the longitudinal corridor from the library room, was apparently, at least primarily, a lounge (as well as an "infirmary"), too recommended in those modern school manuals - where there were six or more teachers employed. (The library room is faced still with a tri-partite window and door - topped with a working transom - combination; as well may have been the rest room for teachers.) The office, on the first floor and directly across the longitudinal corridor from the front entrance foyer, has this tri-partite door with transom and flanking windows combination as well, which allowed the natural light from the fanlight above the front door to shine through them, and vice versa the light meeting it from the wide, rear elevation window set beyond ("The tranverse or front entrance corridor is fourteen feet wide and faces east. Each entrance is quite attractive; the one at the front especially so"); and it was Dr. Johnson's office (for the length of his tenure as superintendent of schools in Charlottesville), with the school principal's office - Miss Burnley's - located in the foyer itself (where both at least were, as the manuals recommended, "centrally accessable"). Georgia maple was the requisite flooring where wood floors were required - and so they are at McGuffey School (only their origin is unknown), with inlaid felt between it and the diagonally laid sub-flooring. Porticos, whatever the architecture style the facade, were considered a must, at the primary entrance if at no other (the McGuffey School building has three such covered entrances, with originally a classical balustrade atop each). The indoor separate play rooms - that were an intrigal part of the original plan - were considered an absolute must, the McGuffey School's being twenty four feet by seventy six feet - with ventilation to the airshaft chimneys and two windows, besides the two doors, to the longitudinal corridor (the toilet rooms across said corridors - in the north and south basement - also had two windows, if with frosted glass panes). (The McGuffey School, in the beginning, did not have a kitchen or cafeteria - as children, in these parts, tra ditionally brought their lunches from home and ate at their desks - though later those orphaned by the flu epidemic of 1919 were served sandwi'ches at the school. When the hot lunch became a standard in the school system, the boys's play room would be used as the cafeteria, with the janitor's room converted to a kitchen. Nor was their an auditorium in the original plan - or Dr. Johnson didn't mention an assembly room of such. Eventually, the girls's playroom doubled as one - with the south end of it built in as a stage. In those pre-World War One plans only big city schools had separate auditoriums - and a cafeteria for serving lunch

was merely optional.) Materials and implements to be used in the building (and the measure of their performance) were no less scrutinized, were equally of particular concern (according to the philosophy embodied in the school architecture handbooks aforementioned). Metal work, for instance, was to be of cast iron and flues masonry and those that were air shafts lined with tin). Slate was the preferred roof covering. With plaster for interior walls and ceilings. (And painted bricks in the basement.) Concrete, where used, was to be non-porous. Wood wainscoting was frowned upon - as it was believed to collect dirt and harbor bacteria (as well as kids might like to carve on it). Colors too had to be neutral - as not to excite "passion". "The walls will be tinted in neutral tones to suit the source from which light comes." (Dr. Johnson again, here); but the colors beneath the chalk troughs in the classrooms could be of a slightly darker hue, he would compromise (where rational science and Victorian mores ran their run). As already noted briefly, basement walls, for the most part, could be left bare - going by the manuals; and were so, at McGuffey School, if painted, but the longitudinal corridor walls were plastered (and were of solid brick). The "furnace should be horizontal and all of cast iron", and indeed the distance between the two chimneys rising up from the boiler room would indicate that they were of this kind - for a "horizontal furnace" is what is called for, again in the school architecture manuals of the period, where there is a warm air room of radiator coils over which fresh air is forced. With the height of the ventilating chimneys (shafts - except for those located in the former toilet rooms - and stacks above the roof, in McGuffey School's case) equal to the measure of the fresh/warm air output (in weight/volume) of the heating system within. (The recommended humidity level of sixty percent for a room to be comfortable at sixty five degrees Fahrenheit meant that the cost of twelve to fifteen percent more fuel would be saved by the presence of ten percent more humidity - as it was calculated that it would take a temperature of seventy degrees to make comfortable a room with but a fifty percent humidity level. Which meant that the janitor had to expertly gauge the correct balance of the two, for each classroom at all hours during the school day. Bruce emphasizes this especially. And given the mechanisms of the day, it took a special talent - otherwise it fails miserably. Which may have been why it was apparently discontinued at the McGuffey School after a few years: definitely by 1935 where photographs of the building from that year show in place of the grills over the air intake flanking the center, second story window, the present six pane sidelights. Regretably, as besides the

loss of the warm fresh air circulation when direct radiation overheated a classroom sashes had to be raised. Which the former system had hoped to allievate: wasted heating costs as well as dead air.) And so on went the specifications that the McGuffey School's construction (and outfitting) would follow. (Writes Dr. Johnson: "The most rigid requirements governing the construction of sanitary school buildings have been complied with both in the general and the detailed scheme.") From the size and height of the slate blackboards and the color and fabric of the window shades ("adjustable" ones, and "transparent" in order to "shut out the dazzling sunlight during that portion of the school day when the sun beams into the rooms with full force", though in the McGuffey School's case only "for a small portion of the school day", such was "the general scheme of the building"). To the exact shape and size of the wire screens over the chalk troughs to "let the dust fall through.....thus keeping the erasers from mopping the dust back on the boards". Upon which, Dr. Johnson concluded (this is again from his article to The Daily Progress of July 14, 1915 - that he republished in his "History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936" - to persuade the city's voters to support the bond referendum to raise the money to build this his "dream school" and described therein in painstaking, loving detail): "an effort has been made to handle every detail to the best advantage for each individual classroom and for the plant as a whole. Harmony, simplicity, utility, beauty have been the ends sought by architect and school officials". After which, in his 1936 "History", he would add, in accessment: "School plants are no exception to the general rule that all buildings used for any time must be changed and modified from time to time to meet new conditions and demands. The original lay out of McGuffey School was such that it has been easy to make readjustments as the years have gone by and this structure is still a modern home for the children who are so fortunate as to attend school here."

And so into the future it remains, if no longer a school in the conventional sense a very much public educational facility no less, with Dr. Johnson's "layout" just as relevant (to the performance and visual creators of art, and their appreciative audience), ninety years on.

Last but not least, its Colonial Revival facade - elsewhere noted and a near pure one at that given the function of the plant it covers, that to a great degree "celebrates" - remains virtually unchanged since it was erected in 1915/16, is at once impressive, powerful, yet singularly "harmonious" amidst his pronounced surrounding, is never ponderous, is "playful" even, as if deliberately conceived so, for all of its formal composition

(or the formal components, to be exact, in its composition), and from all angles that it can be viewed for that matter. If as the artist Delacroix wrote that a painting above all else must be a feast for the eye then I will argue that the McGuffey School building, a work in three demension, is just that.

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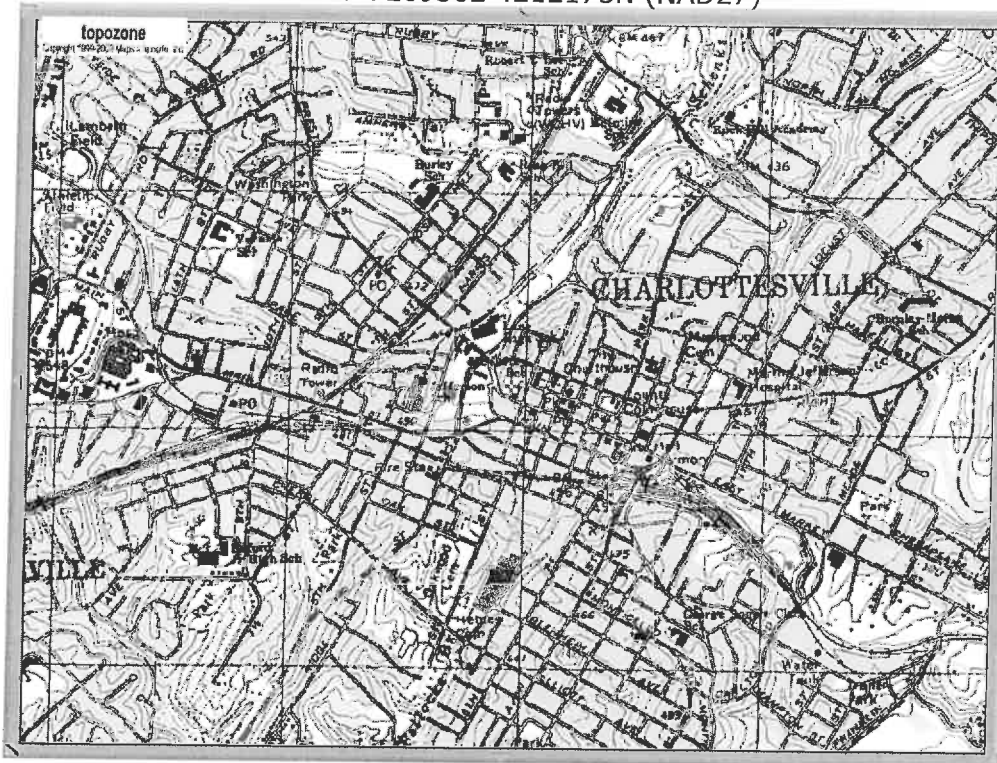
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McGuffey School, USGS Charlottesville East (VA) Topo Map

View TopoZone Pro topographic maps, aerial photos, street maps, coordinate and elevation display
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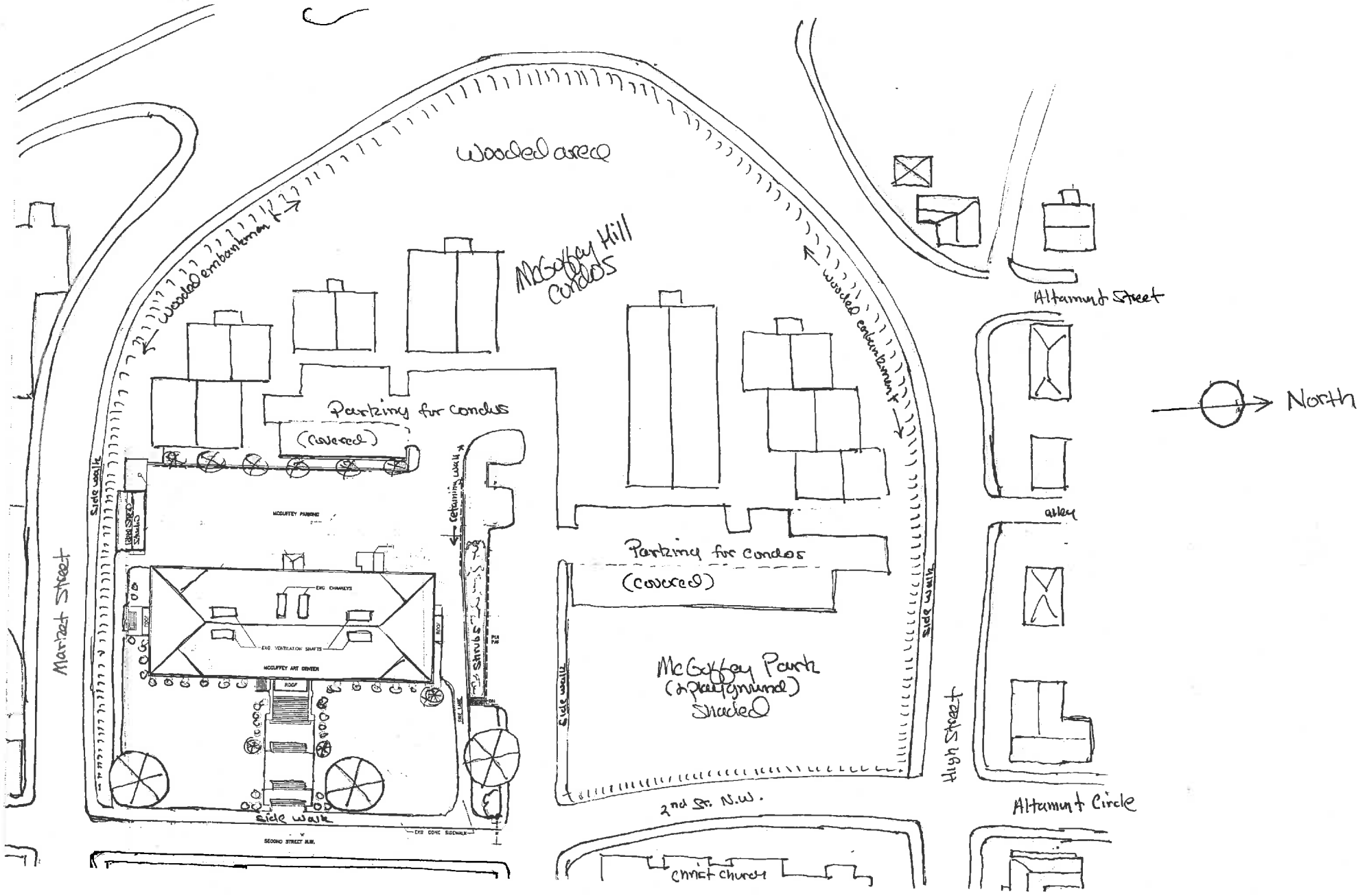
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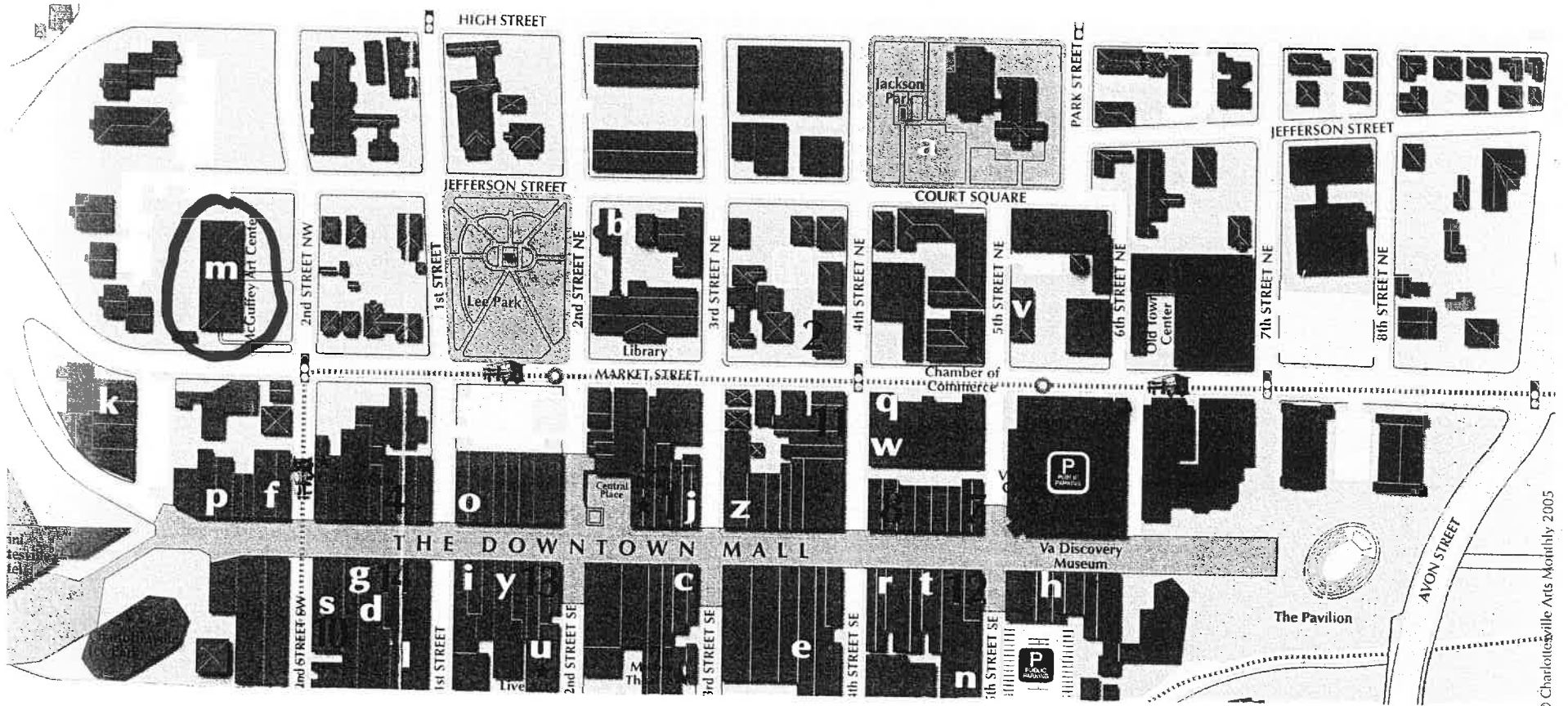


M=-9,561
G=1,552
What's This?

McGuffey School
Charlottesville, Va.



McGuirey Senior
Charlottesville, Va.



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Downtown Charlottesville, Va.
(in part)

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Va.
Rufus W. Holsinger
March 23, 1916
Holsinger Studio Collection
Special Collections
University of Virginia Library
Neg. # 3982BB

Frontal view of the building under construction, from W. Market Street & 2nd Street N.W. corner; with city officials (Dr. James G. Johnson, the Superintendent of Schools in Charlottesville and the building's "planner", among them.

2. Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Va.
Rufus W. Holsinger
March 23, 1916
Holsinger Studio Collection
Special Collections
University of Virginia Library
Neg. # X3982CB

Rear elevation of the building under construction, with city officials (including Dr. James G. Johnson); and workmen atop the air vent or "faux" chimneys. From the north/northwest facing south/southwest.

3. Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Va.
Rufus W. Holsinger
September 6, 1916
Holsinger Studio Collection
Special Collections
University of Virginia Library
Neg. # X4406BI

View from 2nd Street N.W., looking south/southwest from the corner of W. Jefferson Street, of the opening ceremony parade of officials, teachers and pupils as they approach McGuffey School (from Midway School - center, far distance). The front lawn remains unfinished.

Photographs 2

4. Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Va.
Rufus W. Holsinger
November 1918
Holsinger Studio Collection
Special Collections
University of Virginia Library
Neg. # X7042B

View from the corner of 2nd Street N.W. and
W. Jefferson Street, looking west (more or less).
But for the removal of the balustrades atop the
porticos (see photograph # 3 also) sometime in
the 1940s the facade remains virtually unchanged
(the cement walkways as well).

5. Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Va.
William Gitchell ?
Ca. 1920s ?
Charlottesville-Albemarle Historical Society
(Copied from a photographic print in their files)

View from front entrance door of the foyer (first
floor): was the principal's office (Miss Carrie
C. Burnley, Charlottesville's first woman school
principal 1916-1945, is seated at left). Looks
across the longitudinal corridor to what is the
office of the Superintendent of Schools (standing
in the doorway is Dr. James G. Johnson, Charlottes-
ville's Superintendent of Schools from 1909 to
1945: it was Dr. Johnson who "conceptualized"
the McGuffey building as it was built and con-
tinues to stand, drawing up the plans with R.E.
Lee Taylor and seeing them executed with Charles
Calrow, of the Norfolk architecture firm of
Furgeson, Calrow & Taylor). This tri-partite door
and windows combination remained until replaced,
in 1995/96 with a "fireproof" facsimili of metal.

6. Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Va.
William Gitchell ?
Ca. 1920s ?
Charlottesville-Albemarle Historical Society
(Copied from a photographic print in their files)

A classroom on the front (east) side of the build-
ing (note morning sun from the southeast). Stand-
ing (in the back of the room) in a teacher (uniden-
fied) on the left, and Miss Carrie C. Burnley, the

Photographs 3

principal, on the right; in the center foreground is Dr. James G. Johnson, the Superintendent of Schools. Note: the fresh/warm air egris in the wall above the blackboard (the spent air register was at baseboard level, behind where Miss Burnley is standing); in all of the former classrooms today they are merely "boarded" over. At the time of this photograph the ceilings "lamps" had yet to be installed, but the outlets for them are in place.

7. Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Va.
William Gitchell ?
Ca. 1930s
Charlottesville-Albemarle Historical Society
(Copied from a photographic print in their files)

Classroom (probably the same one shown in photograph # 6). In the background, standing from left to right, is a much older appearing Miss Burnley and Dr. Johnson, along with an unidentified woman who was most likely the teacher. Though the fresh/warm air ventilation system may have been dispensed with as early as 1935, the opening in the wall above the blackboard has not been covered. The hanging globe lights seen here were in the foyer and at the end entrance landings, as of 1975, but not in the classrooms. (in the front foyer today is a modern replica.)

8. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 3

Facade of the building, looking west, from 2nd Street N.W. Note: the only visible change from the 1916 and 1918 photographs here is the absence of the balustrade from atop the portico (removed sometime between 1936 and 1950), as well as the "grills" flanking the center, second story window (that covered the fresh air intake vents essential to the original fresh and warm air ventilation component to the building's heating system) that were replaced with these six pane side-lights. The railings were added in 2001 when repairs were done on the steps.

Photographs 4

9. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 31

View from Lee Park, looking west.

10. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 32

View from 1st Street N.W. (Between Market Street
and Jefferson Street.) Looking west.

11. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
Neg. # 4

From the corner of W. Market Street and 2nd Street,
N.W. (Corrosponds to the 1916 photograph at # 1.)
Looking north/northwest.

12. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 13

From McGuffey Park, looking south/southwest. In
the background, to the left, is a roof of one of
McGuffey Hill Condominiums (that form a backdrop
to both the park and the former school building
along the western rim of what originally known as
Beck's Hill).

13. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 0

From the corner of 2nd Street N.W. and the "McGuffey
entrance driveway", looking southwest. (Is also the
southeast corner of McGuffey Park.)

Photographs 5

14. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 12

The facade of the building, looking south/southwest.

15. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm.H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 11

The facade of the building, up close (of portico; part of the center and all of the south end pavilion). Looking south/southwest. A holiday wreath obscures the fanlight over the front door(s).

16. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 7

The facade of the building, looking north (or close enough). Note: the brickwork under the portico is from 2001, though it is an exact replacement of the original (here can be seen, low to the ground, the "alcove" to the emergency exit from the basement, built in the late 1950s or during the 1960s).

17. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 10

The south end elevation of the building (facing W. Market Street - at bottom of hill- below), looking west. The pipe railing here is original or near so (there once was a simular railing on the northside walk to the building). The shed to the right was moved to this spot from the area of the condominiums (1983) in the far back (barely discernable here one of the "clusters"); Formerly for storage, from the 1960's, it is now an artist's studio.

Photographs 6

18. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 8

Southeast corner of the building, up close.

19. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 9

The south end of the build (and its portico),
looking east/northeast. Note; the panels in
the wall; and the clumsily repointed brick piers
(2001) that abut the steps.

20. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg.# 20

The north end elevation of the building (and north
portico) looking east/southeast (that faces McGuffey
Park, across the way).

21. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 17

View of the real elevation of the building from
the McGuffey Hill Condominiums' area, looking
southeast (with a corner, on the right, of one
of the garages to the condominium complex). Note:
the 1995/95 elevator "tower", which is connected
to the building by a lower section (below the
entablature) that houses a "foyer" to the elevator
doors on each floor. The parking lot here (as well
the condominium area behind it) was originally the
school's playground.

Photographs 7

22. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 14

View of the rear elevation of the building, up closer (looking to the southwest). The closed in "porch" of brick that covered the steps to the boiler room may not be original, as its walls are not bonded with the building proper. But the original brickwork in it is of the same period, it would appear. In itself, its materials are original.

23. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 22

The front (first floor) entrance foyer (view corresponds with that in photograph # 5), looking across the longitudinal corridor to what is now the McGuffey Main Gallery shop (and reception) area (created out of the front half of the former office - after the 1980 fire); further beyond is the nowadays office. The tri-partite door and side windows/transom combination here are the "fireproof" 1995/96 replacement of the original (that all but the door survived the 1980 fire). Note: the wall here continues for another two and one half feet above the picture rail (is, like the ceiling itself, painted black). Note too, the "dust flue", left, at baseboard level (is, like all of the rest of the woodwork in this area, original).

24. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 24

The first floor longitudinal corridor, looking north to south (it meets here the front foyer at middle left). Fire walls, at each end of it, since 1975 block it off from the stairs. Like the picture rail, baseboards, door surrounds and the paneled doors themselves, the maple floor is original (as is most of the plaster in the walls).

Photographs 8

25. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 35

The Printshop studio (is the classroom shown in photograph # 6 and # 7). Note: the original blackboard is behind the wall covering here - between the chalk tray and the picture rail (as it remains in most of the former classrooms - now artists' studios - if covered in some form or another).

26. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 23

View of the Main Gallery space, formerly a classroom. Show here where it enters into the reception/shop area of the former office space, with the cut-away wall (it was in an electrical outlet in this wall that the 1980 fire started). The floor here, as it both the new office and the shop, is from 1980, though of maple. Even here most of the wood work is original, if painted white.

27. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 29

View of the north stairs from the landing midway between first and second floor. The firewall is from 1975, and the metal door is a 1995/96 replacement of the 1975 wooden one. Originally, the building was open from end to end on first and second floor - and partially so at each end of the basement level.

28. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 28

View from the head of the north stairs (from the second floor firewall's doorway). Towards the mid-way landing (or "break in the run"), and, through the window, McGuffey Park - over the way. It is uncertain if the cast iron staircase here is original (or its facsimili on the south end of the building), but it was in place by the 1940s (if not). It does follow the turn of the century school building manuals specifications - for cast iron staircases in school buildings. The treads here are of soapstone (older residents who attended school here seem to remember them being of wood) as is the floor on the landing here. It is possible that the treads only were originally of wood. The lower handrails are of a finely molded maple.

29. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 30

View of north stairs (from the firewall doorway on the first floor). Below is the north entrance door, with transom, below the north end elevation portico. The stairs turn again to go down to the north basement's longitudinal corridor. The floor of the entrance landing here is of the same Portland cement "squares" as is all the flooring in the basement.

30. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 24

The second floor longitudinal corridor, looking south (both the first floor corridor and this corridor are the Art Center's Lower and Upper Gallery respectively). Midway, on the left, is the original tri-partite door/windows combination that fronted the former library room. All originals here are the same as found in said corridor on the first floor.

Photographs 10

31. The McGuffey Art Center
(Originally the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Va.
Richard Thrift
December 2006
Neg. # 26

The second floor elevator corridor (like the one on the first floor below it) was created out of the space of two cloakrooms (note the the center "patch" running lengthwise, where the deviding wall once stood) during the 1995/96 "renovation" to bring the building "up to code". It is entered off the north end of the respective longitudinal corridors. The "chimney" protuberance here is from the original fresh/warm air and spent air vent system that brought the former up from the warm air chamber (via a fan in the fan room) and expelled the latter from the tall stacks above the roof. And are so situated in each cloakroom (now storage space) for the former classroom it served - the vents/registers merely wallboarded, for the most part, and painted over (as seen here).

McGuffey School
Charlottesville, VA
Richardel Thrift
2005

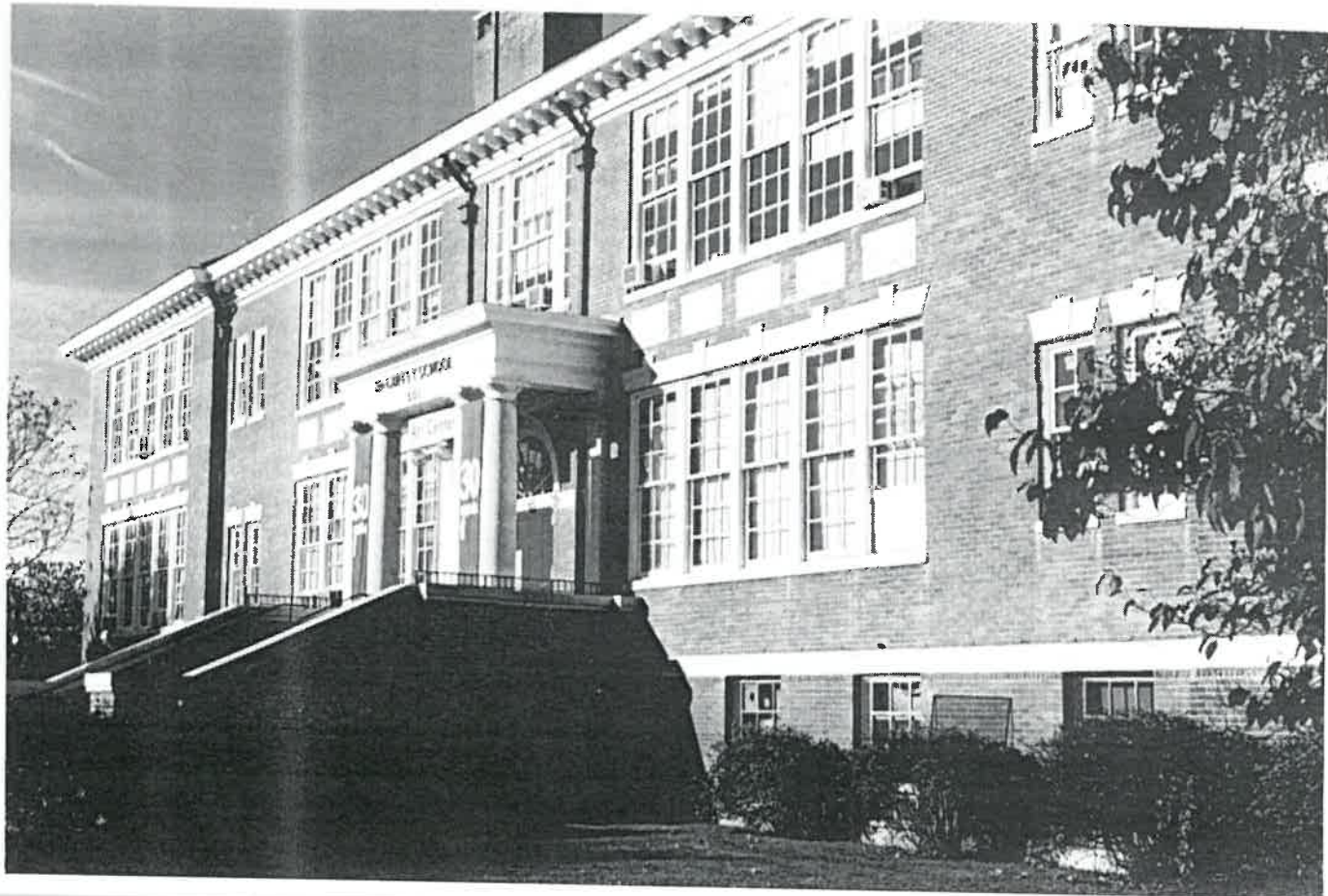


McGuffey Hill condo
Charlottesville, VA
Richard Thrift
2005



McGuffey Art Center
(Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, VA

Richard Thruff
2005



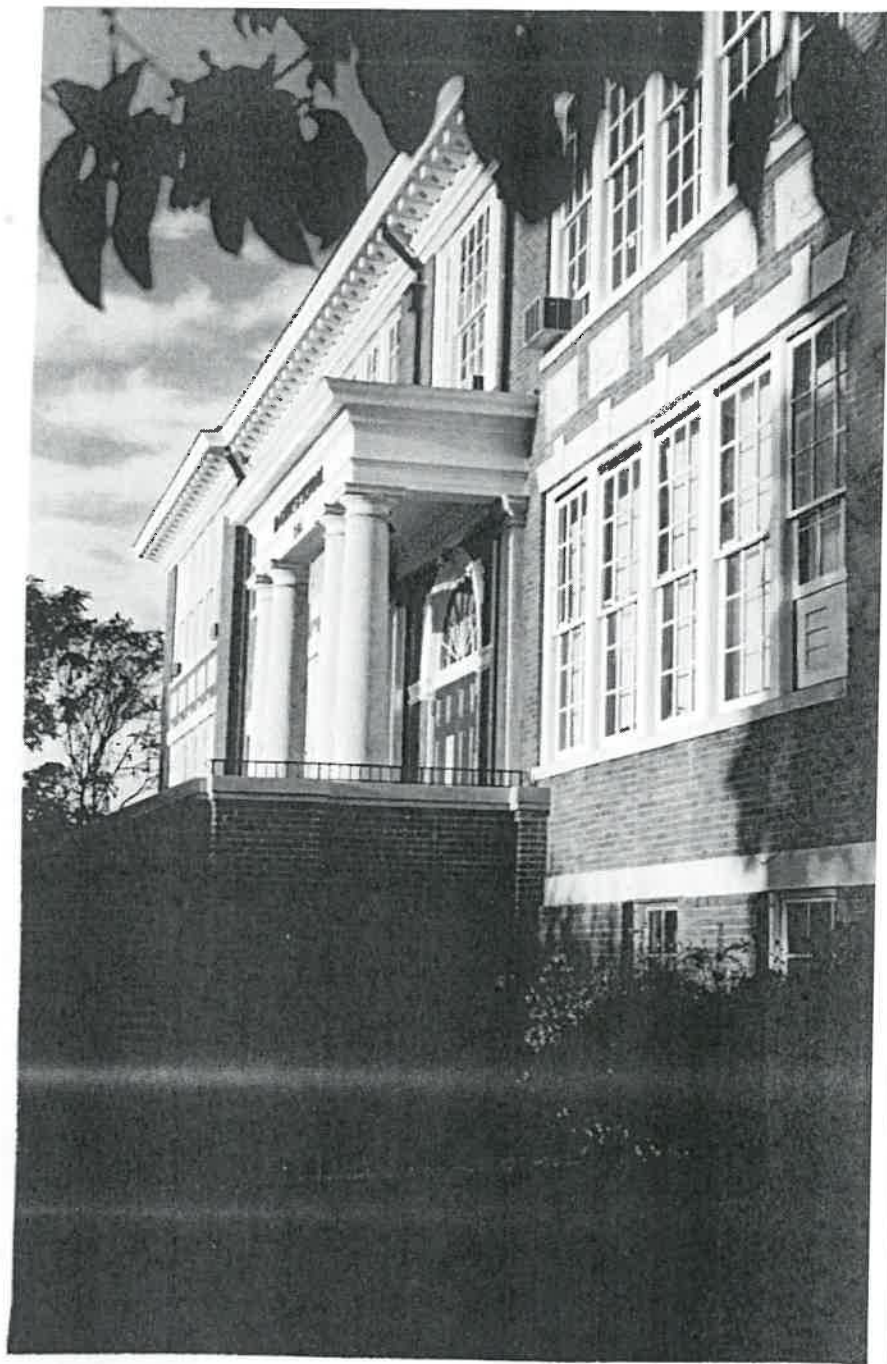
McGuffey Art Center

(W.M. H. McGuffey Primary School)

Charlottesville, VA

Richard Thrift

2005

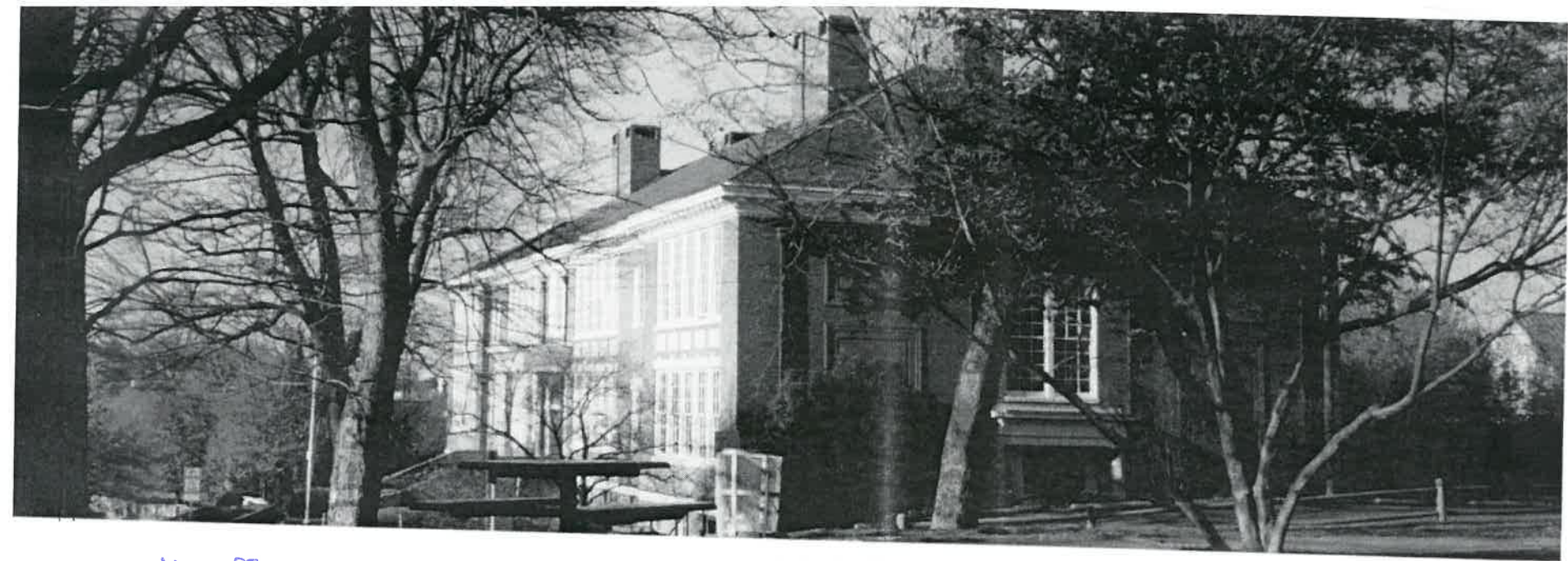


McGuffey Art Center
(w.m. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, VA.
Richard Thruff
2002



McGuffey School
Charlottesville, VA
Richard Thruff
2005





McGuffey Art center
Charlottesville, Va
Richard Thrift
2002



McGuffey Art Center
Charlottesville, Va
Richard Thruft
2004

McGuffey Hill Condos
Charlottesville, Va
Richard Thruff
2005



McGuffey Park
Charlottesville, VA
Richard Thrift
2005



Jan 22, '08

JAN 22 2008

Gary,

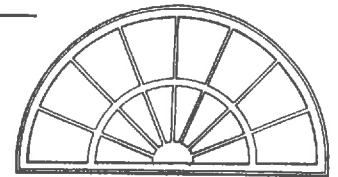
As Mary Joy will tell you, the first step towards a nomination is the Capitol Regional Office's evaluation of this Preliminary Information Form. To determine if the subject is worthy of presenting to their central office. (With perhaps a request to the applicant for additional information - or a better shaped argument - beforehand.) It is a similar process with the Central Office who presents it to the DHR's National Register Evaluation Committee. Who will consider if the subject meets the National Park Service register criteria. All along, of course, more information (and a better argument) may be required. From there the PIF goes to the State Review Board. Whose vote completes the evaluation process. Only then does the actual nomination to the Virginia Landmarks and National Register of Historic Places begins (which the applicant must complete. (Kafka would have loved this outfit.)

Both applicant and owner are kept informed of each step along the way. With the applicant obliged to adhere to any request, if the evaluation is to be completed. For the nomination itself a new form must be completed. And so on.

When I first contacted the Regional Office I got an encouraging response from those I queried many times over. And the DHR archivist, Quatro Hubbard, was quite supportive.

Dont know if your office wants to send it on directly, or if you want me to pick it up and mail it myself. Wait to hear.

Thanks,
J. J. J.



**MCGUFFEY
ART CENTER**

201 SECOND STREET, N.W.
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
(804) 295-7973 22902

January 11, 2008

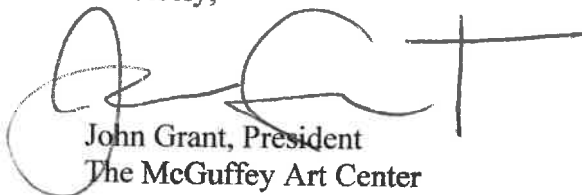
Mr. Gary O'Connell
City Manager's Office,
P. O. Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Dear Gary,

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me on December 13th of last year. I'm pleased to report that at our last full association meeting, members voted unanimously to support the efforts of the City in seeking approval for registration of The McGuffey Art Center on the historic registry.

Should you need any further elaboration or clarification on this matter, I will be happy to discuss it with you at any time. Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



John Grant, President
The McGuffey Art Center

December 28, 2007

Mr. Marc C. Wagner, Director, Resource Information Division
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

RE: Proposed McGuffey School Individual National Register Nomination
City of Charlottesville

Dear Mr. Wagner,

Please be advised that the City of Charlottesville fully supports the proposed nomination of McGuffey School, located at 200 2nd Street NW, to the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register as an individually designated property. A Preliminary Information Form (PIF) has been prepared in support of this nomination, which you will be receiving soon.

The McGuffey School is currently designated as a contributing structure in the City's North Downtown Historical Preservation and Architectural Design Control (ADC) District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David E. Brown
Mayor

October 29, 2007

OCT 31 2007

Gary O'Connell
City Manager
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville
Va. 22901

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

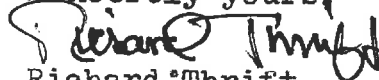
Re: Proposal to nominate McGuffey School/
Arts Association support.

John Grant, the current McGuffey Arts Association president, if he has not already, should shortly be writing to assure you that the McGuffey Arts Association is in no way against my project. And blames himself - though he shouldn't - for the lack of response to your letter to the Association of May 17th. As he more or less put it to me: "If the City Manager asks us to support it how can we not do otherwise - since it is a city building. It's a no brainer."

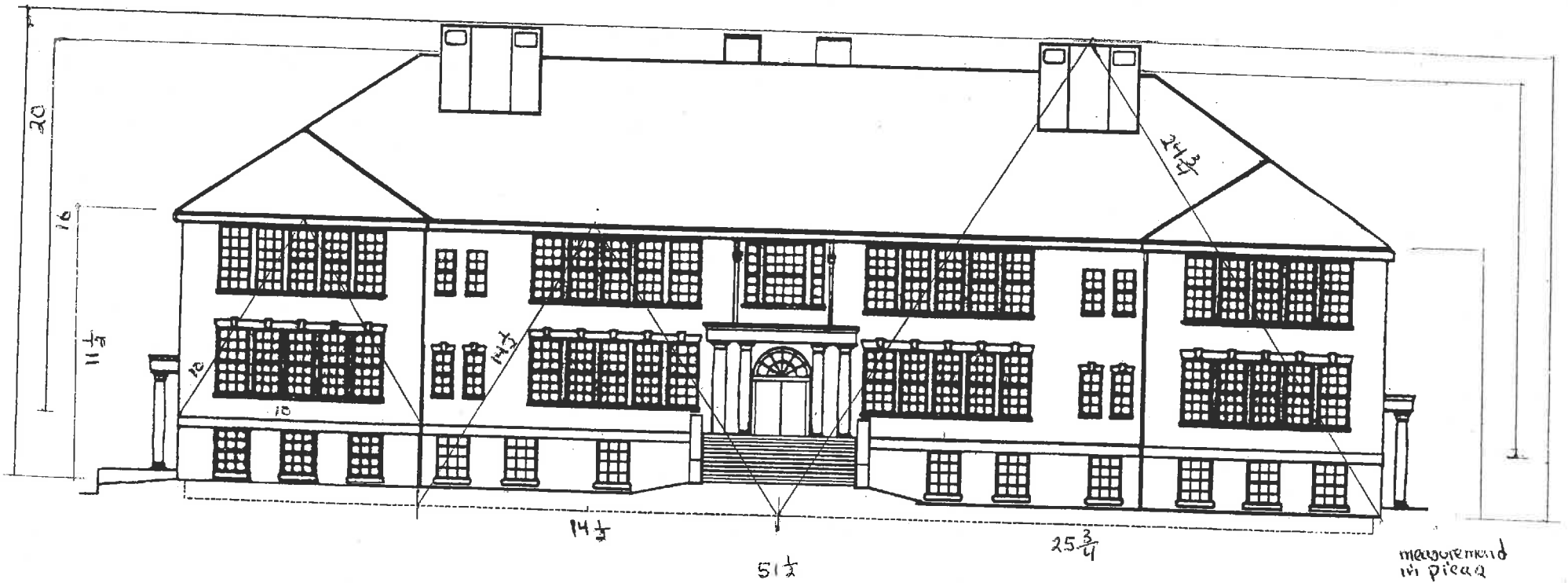
That letter of March 8th to you from the previous council gave a somewhat erroneous interpretation, I fear, of the motion the Association voted on at their February meeting. Which simply was that the Association was concerned that "the city may feel as though McGuffey is stepping on their toes - trying to change the status of the building" therefore the Association "is in no way connected to this endeavor and does not endorse it". It all had to do with not wanting to upset the city as they saw it.

I can only hope that you and your staff will be assured by what John writes that there isn't any "opposition" waiting in the wings here to derail things. So that I can leave off my Preliminary Information Form material on the building for your perusal and recommendation to City Council. And, as I stated in my original letter - and reiterated at our meeting - I stand ready to make all or any additions and/or corrections as asked for by the Va. Department of Historical Resources throughout the course of the process.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Thrift
403 Altamont Circle #3
Charlottesville
Va. 22902
(rthrift2222@hotmail.com)

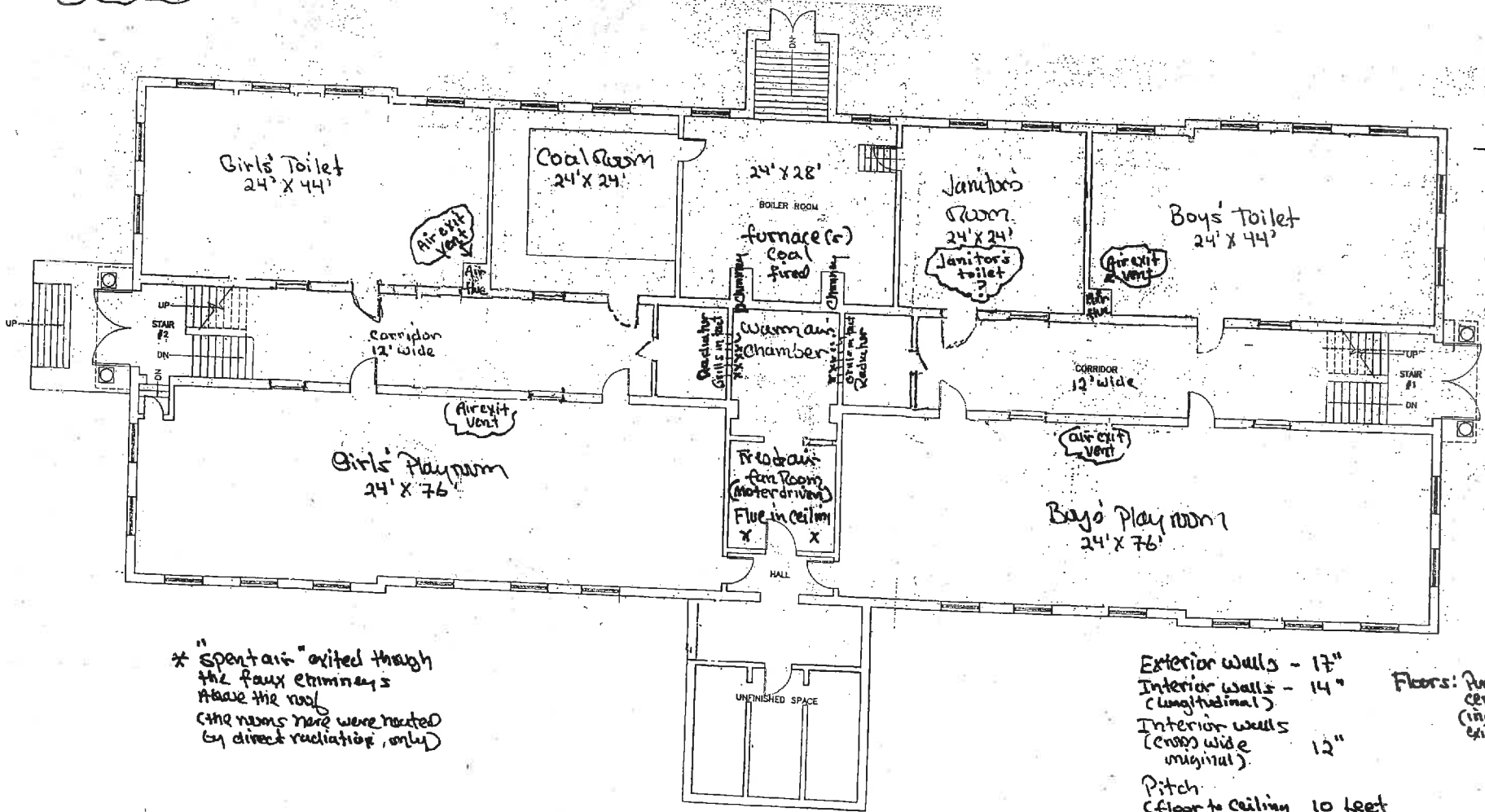


McGUFFEY

Basement
1916

As Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
(when it first opened)
Sep. 1916

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street N.W.



66 1/2 feet

* "spent air" exited through
the faux chimneys
above the roof
(the rooms here were heated
by direct radiation, only)

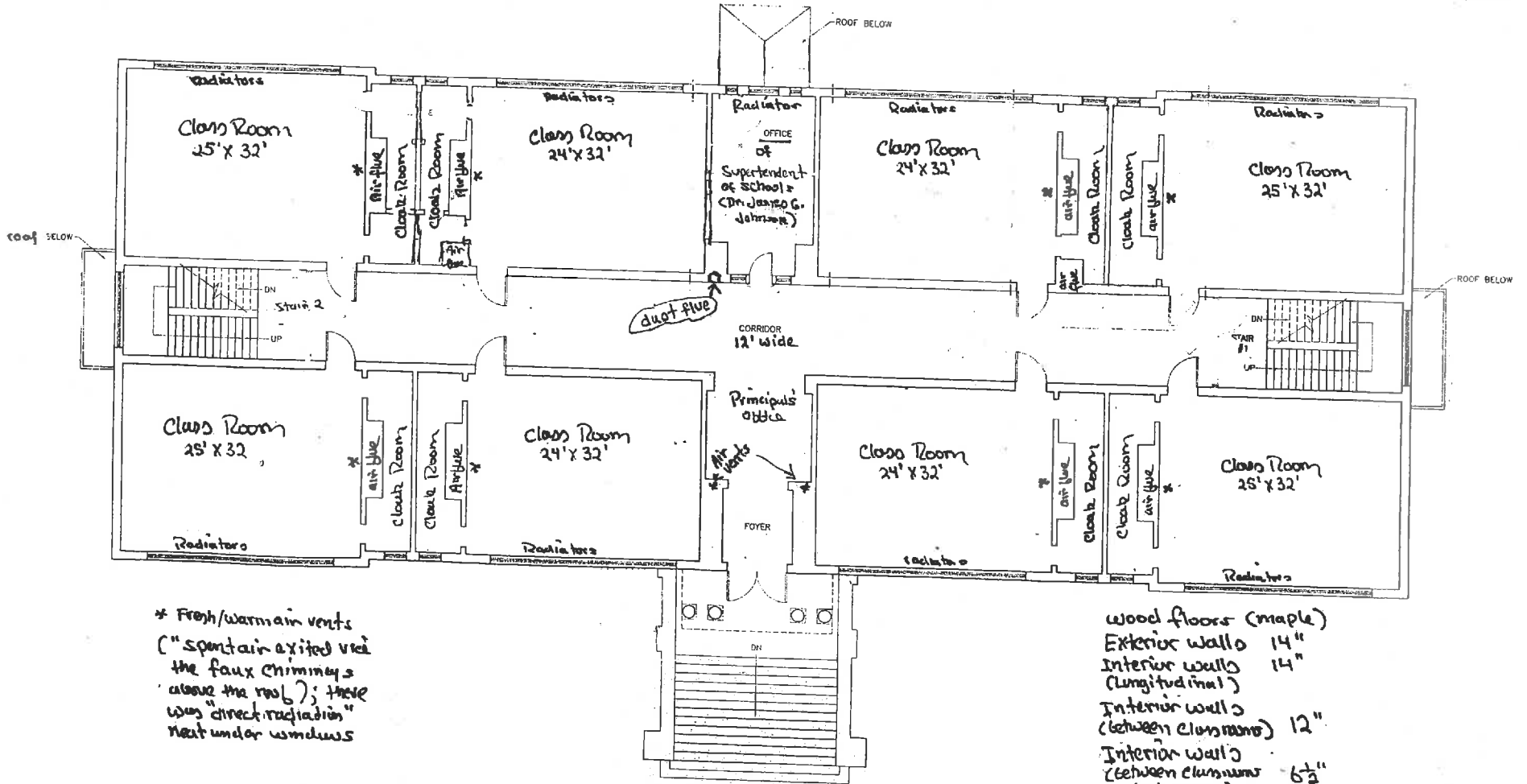
171 feet

Exterior walls - 17"
Interior walls - 14"
Interior walls (cross wide original) - 12"
Floors: Portland cement (including end exit landings)
Pitch
Floor to ceiling 10 feet
original interior walls are brick

1st floor
1916

As the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
(when it first opened)
Sept. 1916

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street N.W.



* Fresh/warm air vents
("spout air exited via
the faux chimneys
above the roof"); there
was "direct radiation"
next under windows

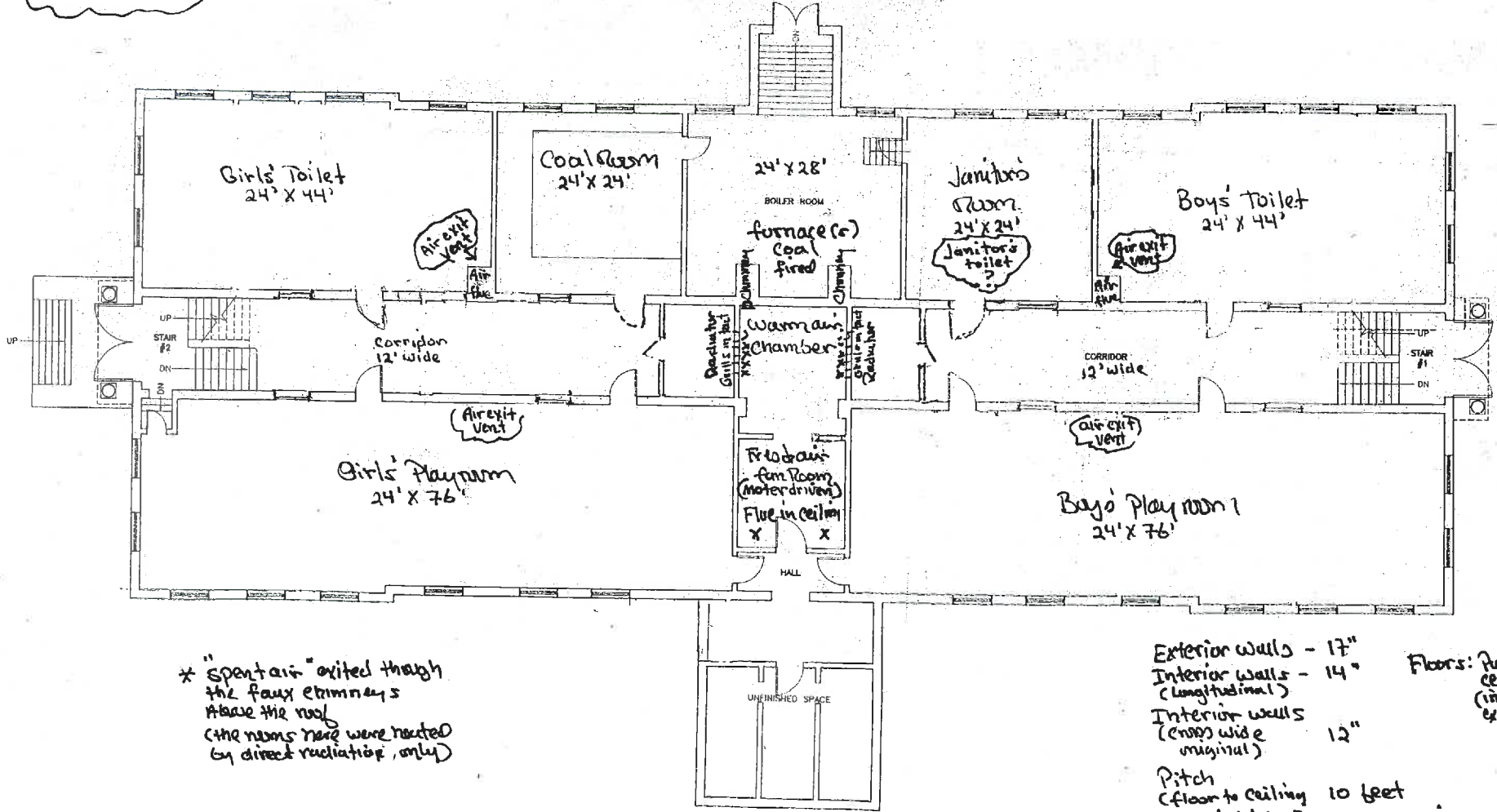
wood floors (maple)
Exterior walls 14"
Interior walls 14"
(longitudinal)
Interior walls
(between classrooms) 12"
Interior walls
(between classrooms
& closet rooms) 6 1/2"
Pitch 13 feet
(to picture rails) 10 feet / 8 inches

Basement
1916

As Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
(when it first opened)
Sept. 1916



CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street N.W.



66 1/2 feet

* "spent air" exited through
the faux chimneys
above the roof
(the rooms here were heated
by direct radiation, only)

Exterior walls - 17"
Interior walls - 14"
(longitudinal)
Interior walls
(cross wide original) - 12"
Pitch
floor to ceiling 10 feet
original interior walls are brick

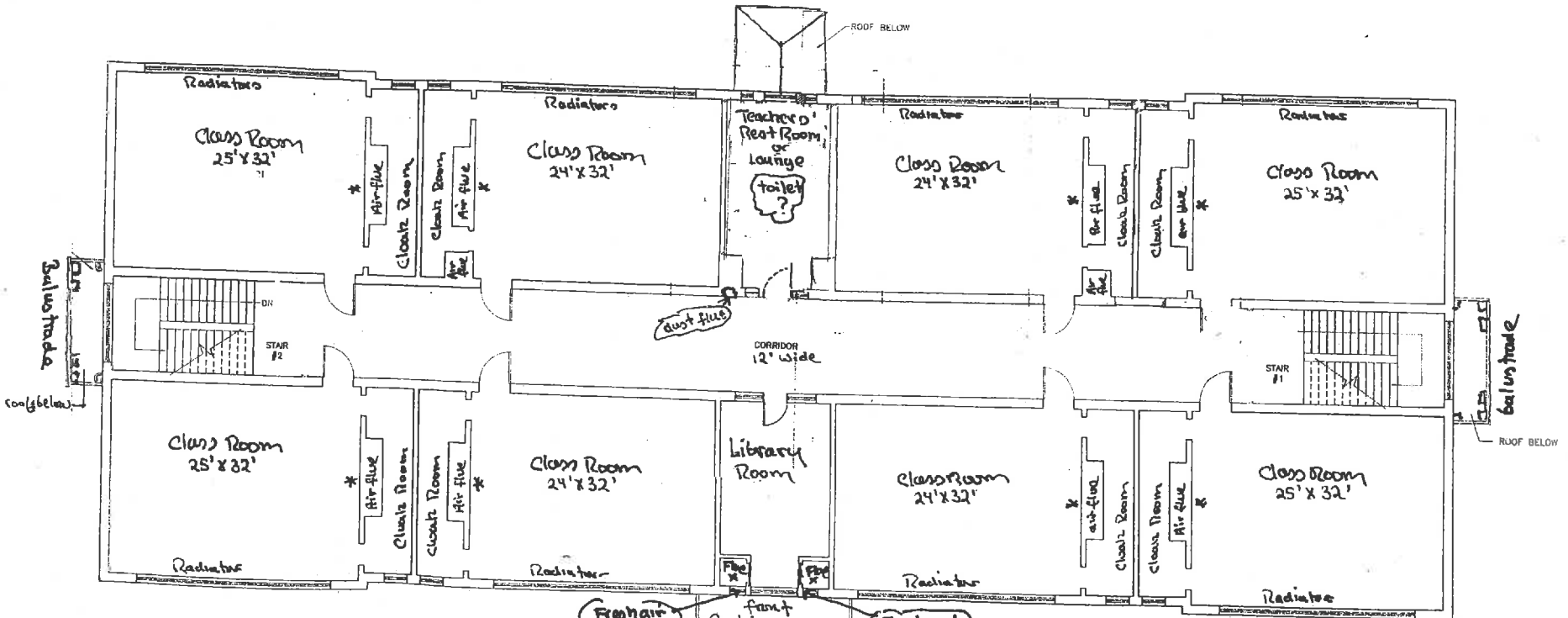
Floors: Portland
cement
(including end
exit landings)

171 feet

2nd floor
1916

As the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
(when it first opened)
Sept. 1916

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street N.W.



* Fresh/warm air vents
(*spot air exited via
the faux chimneys
on the roof); there
was "direct radiation"
heat under windows.

Fresh air intake
Porch floor below
Balustrade
Fresh air intake

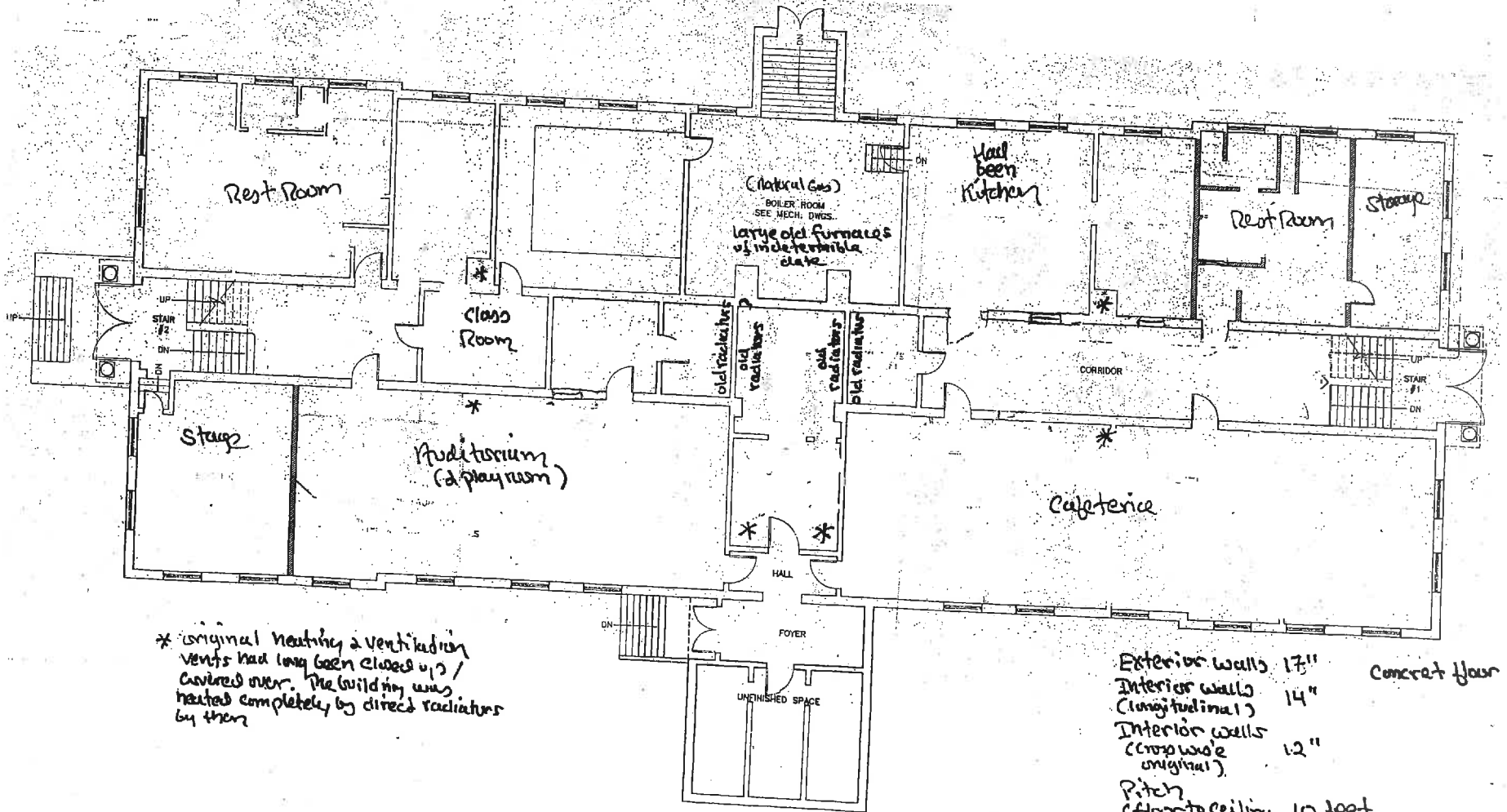
Exterior walls 14"
Interior walls
(longitudinal) 14"
Interior walls
(between classrooms) 12"
Interior walls
(between classrooms
& closets) 6 1/2"

Pitch 13 feet
(to picture
rail) 10 feet/
8 inches
wood doors (maple)

Basement
1974

The McGuffey School Building
(when it closed was a public school)

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street NW.



* original heating & ventilation vents had long been closed up / covered over. The building was heated completely by direct radiators by them

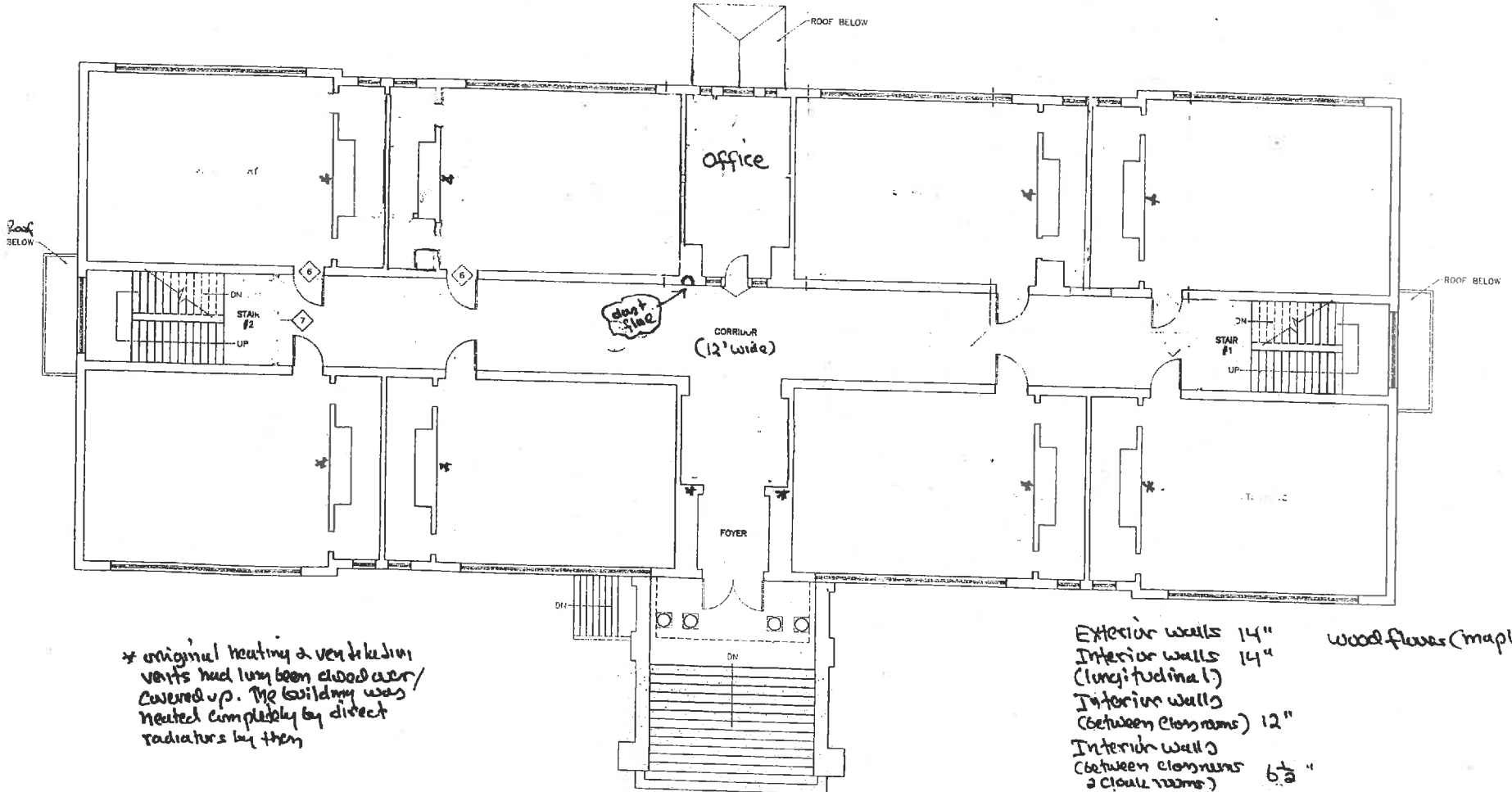
Exterior walls 17" Concrete floor
Interior walls (longitudinal) 14"
Interior walls (crosswise original) 12"
Pitch floor to ceiling 10 feet
All original walls are brick (interior)

171 feet

1st floor
1974

The McGuffey School Building
(when it closed as a public school)

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd St. N.W.



66.5 feet

* original heating & ventilation
vents had long been closed and
covered up. The building was
heated completely by direct
radiators by then

Exterior walls 14" wood frames (maple)
Interior walls 14" (longitudinal)
Interior walls (between classrooms) 12"
Interior walls (between classrooms & cloak rooms) 6 1/2"
Pitch 13 feet
(to picture rails) 10 feet / 8 inches

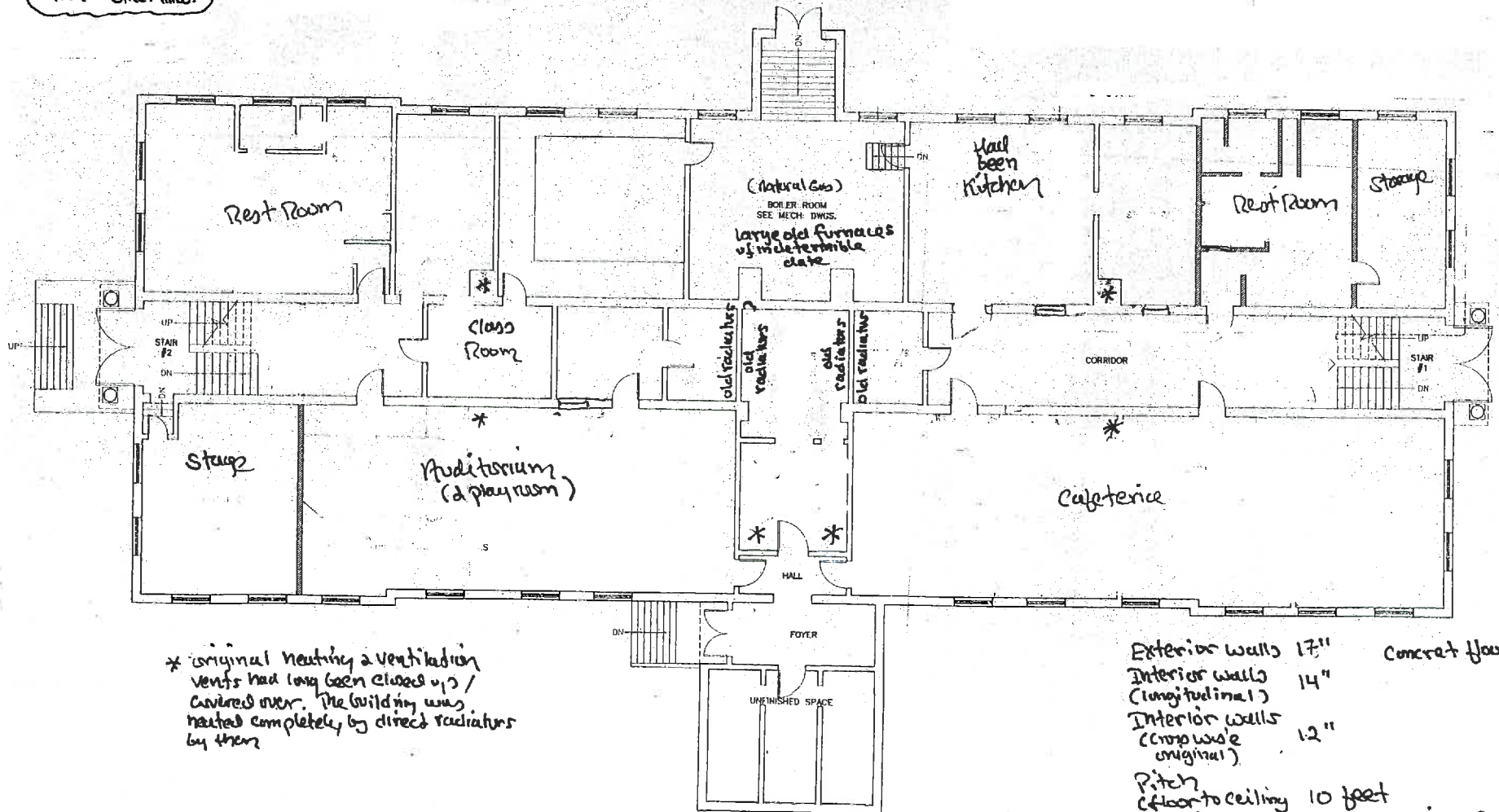
171 feet

Basement
1974

The McGuffey School Building
(when it closed as a public school)



CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street N.W.



* original heating & ventilation vents had long been closed up / covered over. The building was heated completely by direct radiators by them

Exterior walls 17" Concrete floor
Interior walls (longitudinal) 14"
Interior walls (crosswise original) 12"
Pitch of floor to ceiling 10 feet
All original walls are brick (interior)

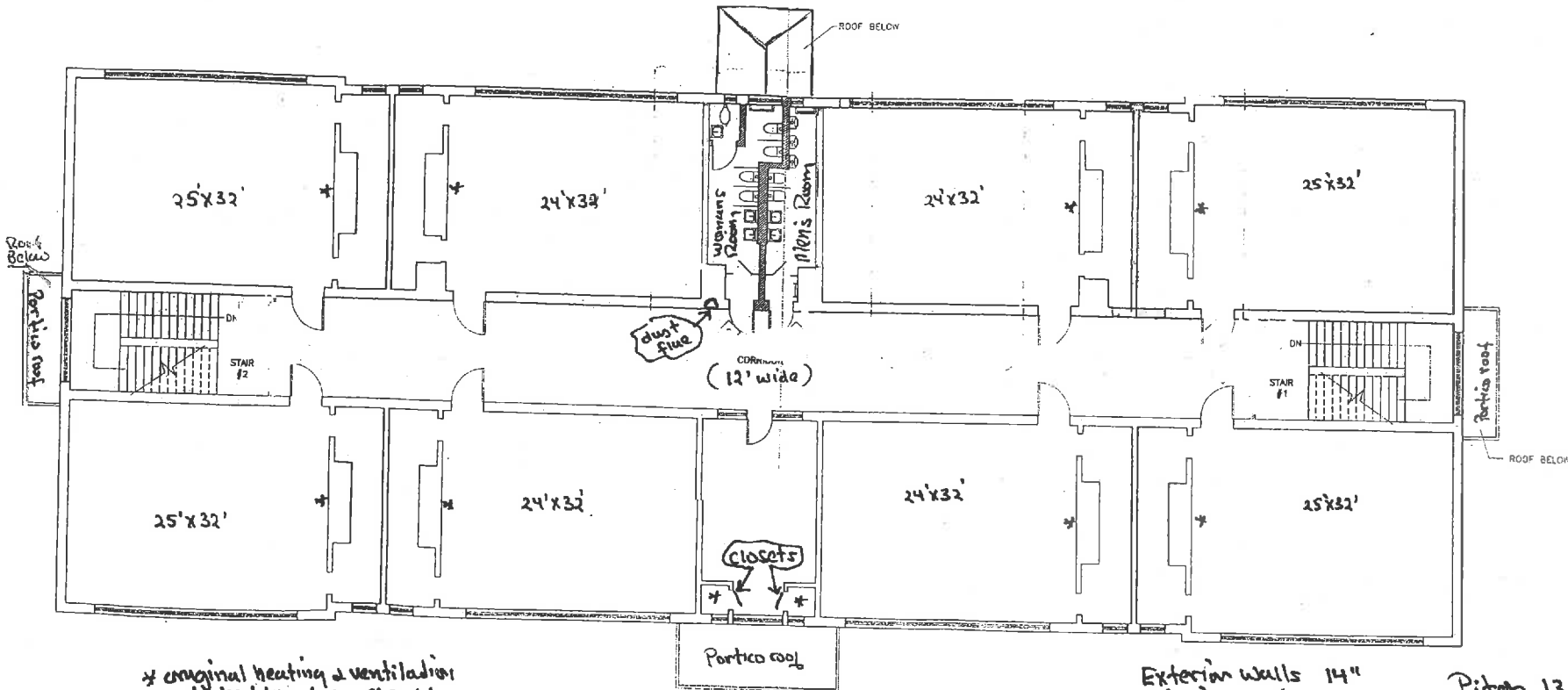
171 feet

171 feet

2nd floor:
1974

the McGuffey School Building
(when it closed as a public school)

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street N.W.



663 feet

* original heating & ventilation vents had long been closed/covered over. The building was heated by direct radiators completely by then.

171 feet

Exterior walls 14"
Interior walls (longitudinal) 14"
Interior walls (between class rooms) 12"
Interior walls (between class rooms & closets rooms) 6 1/2"

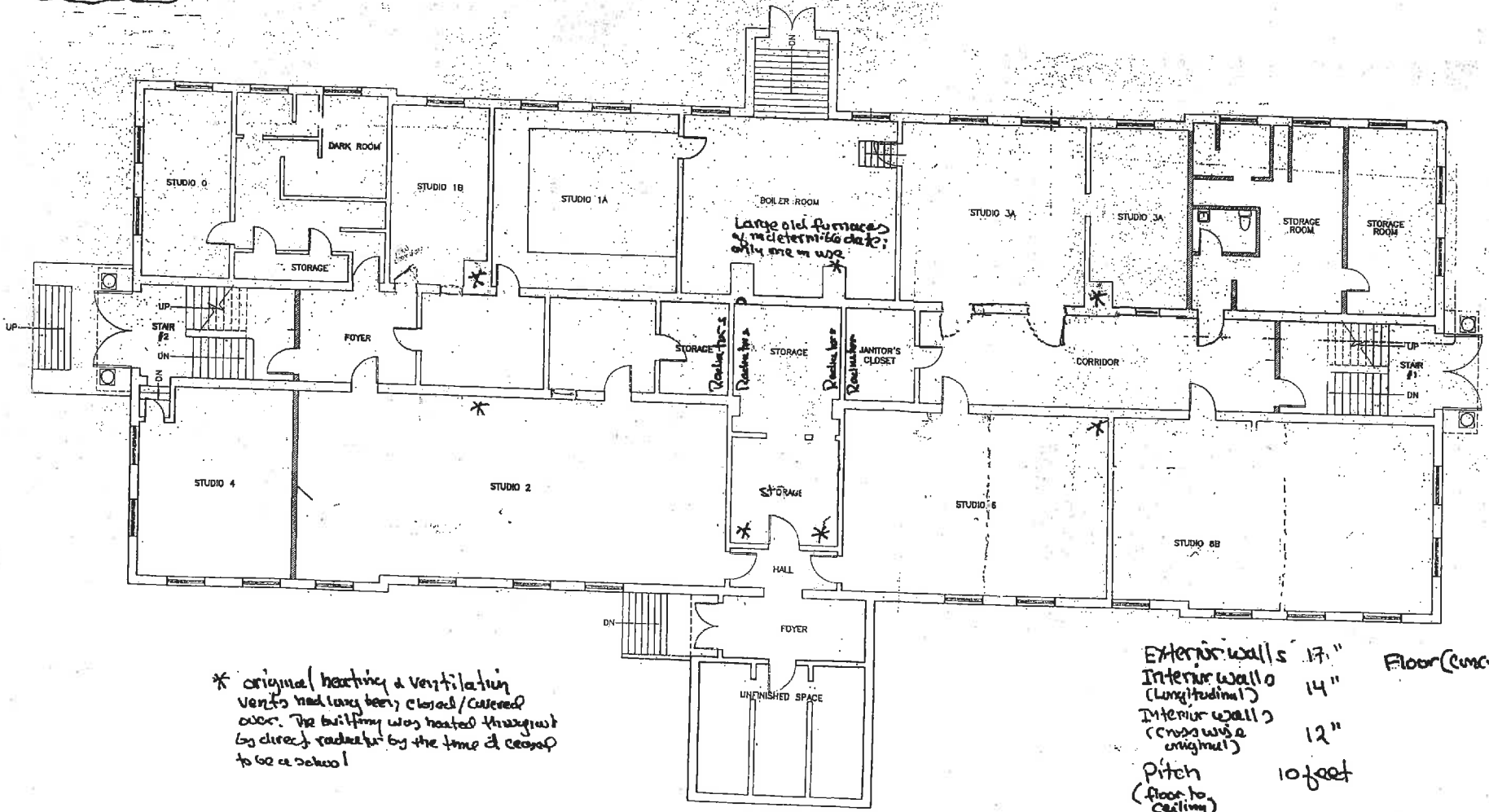
Pitch 13 feet
(to picture rails)
10 feet / 8 inches

wood floors (maple)

Basement: 1975-1995

The McGuffey School Building
as
The McGuffey Art Center
1975-

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 1st St NW



* original heating & ventilation vents had long bars, closed/covered over. The building was heated throughout by direct radiators by the time it ceased to be a school

Exterior walls 17" Floor (concrete)
 Interior walls (Longitudinal) 14"
 Interior walls (crosswise original) 12"
 Pitch (floor to ceiling) 10 feet
 Interior walls (original) brick

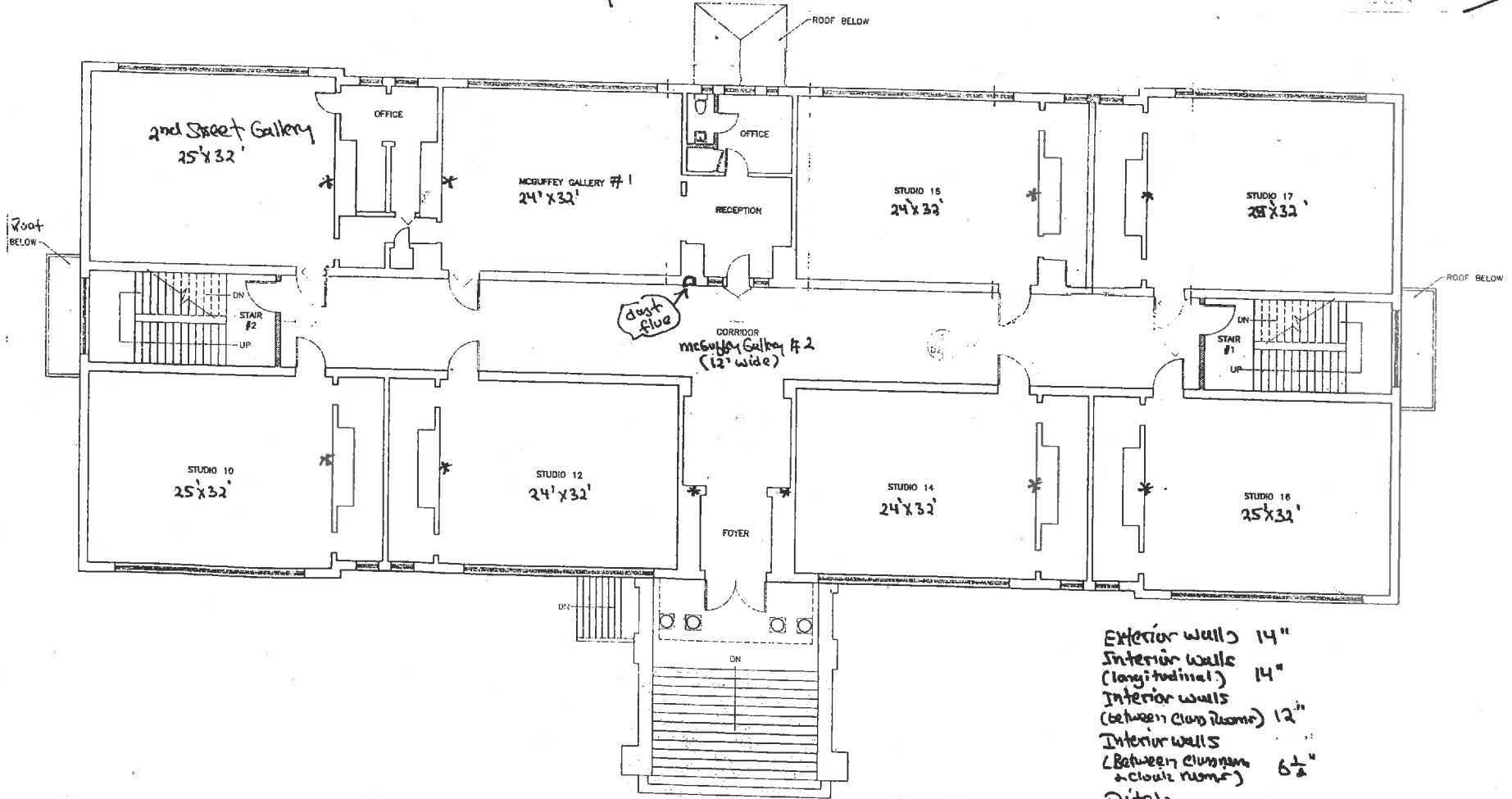
17-16 feet

17-16 feet

1st Floor: 1975-1995

The McGuffey School Building
as
The McGuffey Art Center
1975-

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
301 2nd Street



1st McGuffey School
1916

66 1/2 feet

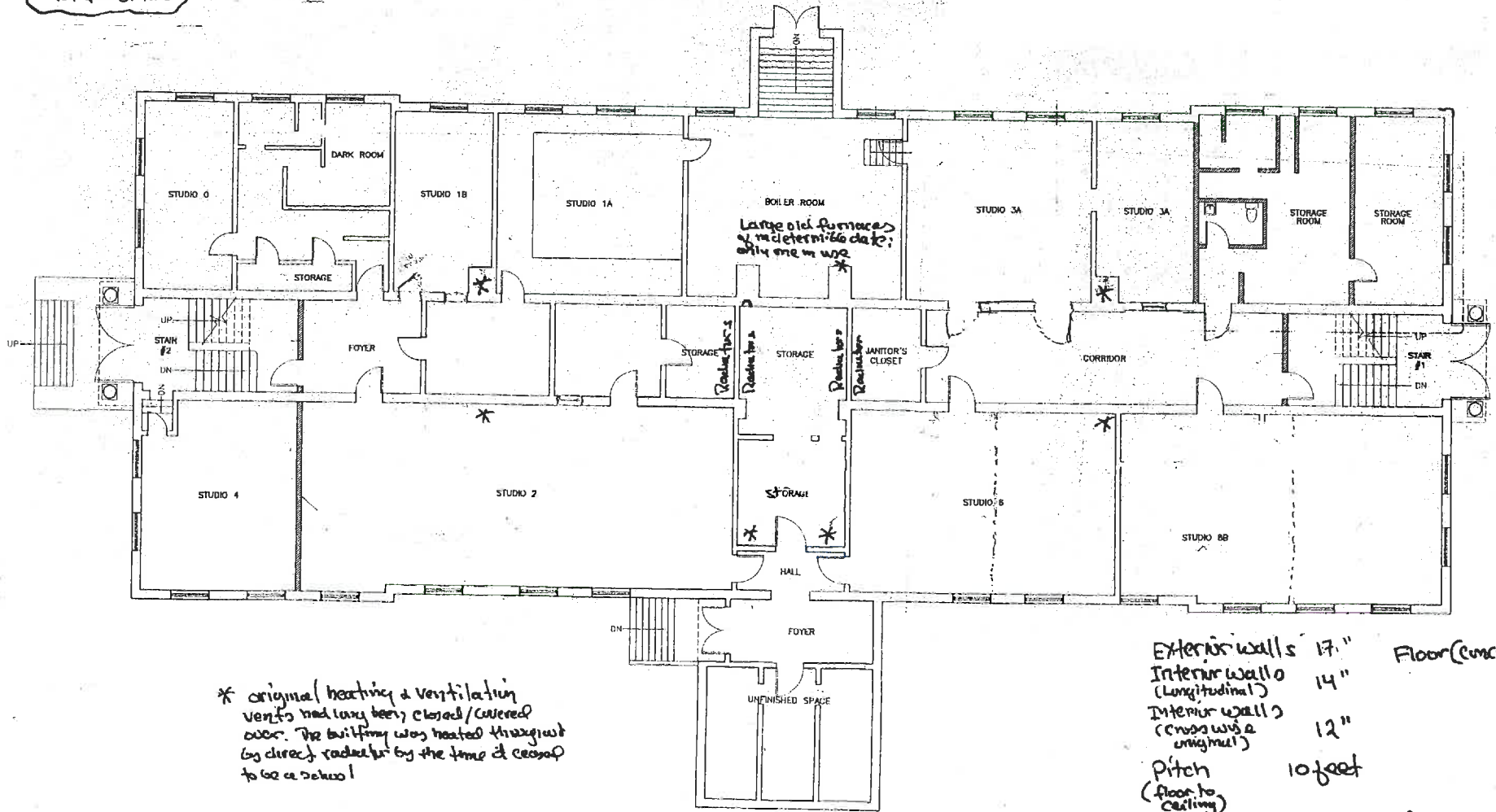
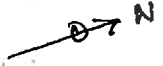
171 feet

- Exterior walls 14"
- Interior walls (longitudinal) 14"
- Interior walls (between class rooms) 12"
- Interior walls (between classroom & class room) 6 1/2"
- Pitch (floor to ceiling) 13 feet
- (to picture rails) 10 feet / 8 inches

Basement: 1975-1995

The McGuffey School Building
as
The McGuffey Art Center
1975-

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 17th St N.W.



Large old furnace
of indeterminate date;
still in use

* original heating & ventilation
vents had long been closed/covered
over. The building was heated throughout
by direct radiators by the time it ceased
to be a school

Exterior walls 17"
Interior walls
(Longitudinal) 14"
Interior walls
(cross w/ a
unigraul) 12"
Pitch
(floor to
ceiling) 10 feet
Interior walls (original) brick

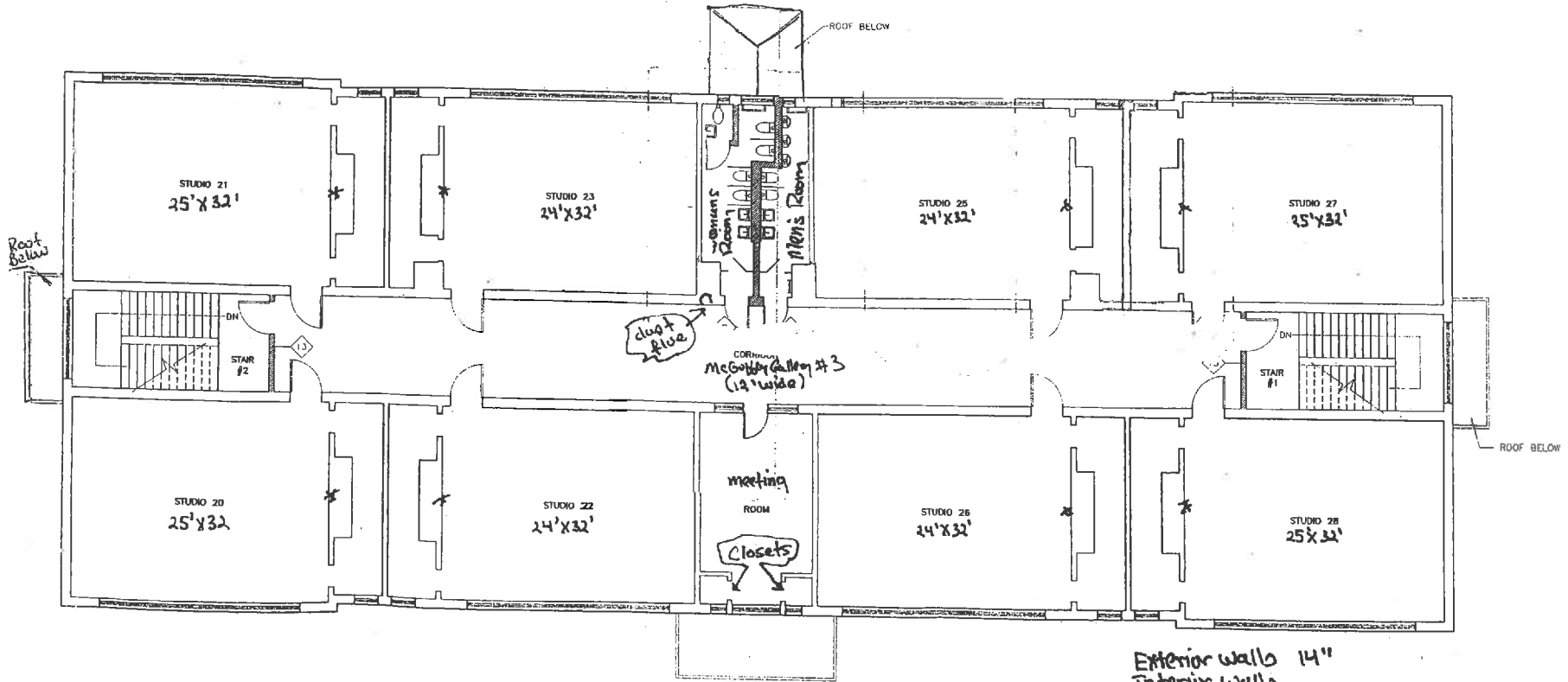
171 feet

66 1/2 feet

2nd floor: 1975-1995

The McGuffey School Building
as
The McGuffey Art Center
1975-

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street N.W.



66 1/2 feet

* Former Heating & Ventilation systems vent had long been closed/covered over by 1974 when McGuffey closed as a school; heating is by direct radiation throughout the building

171 feet

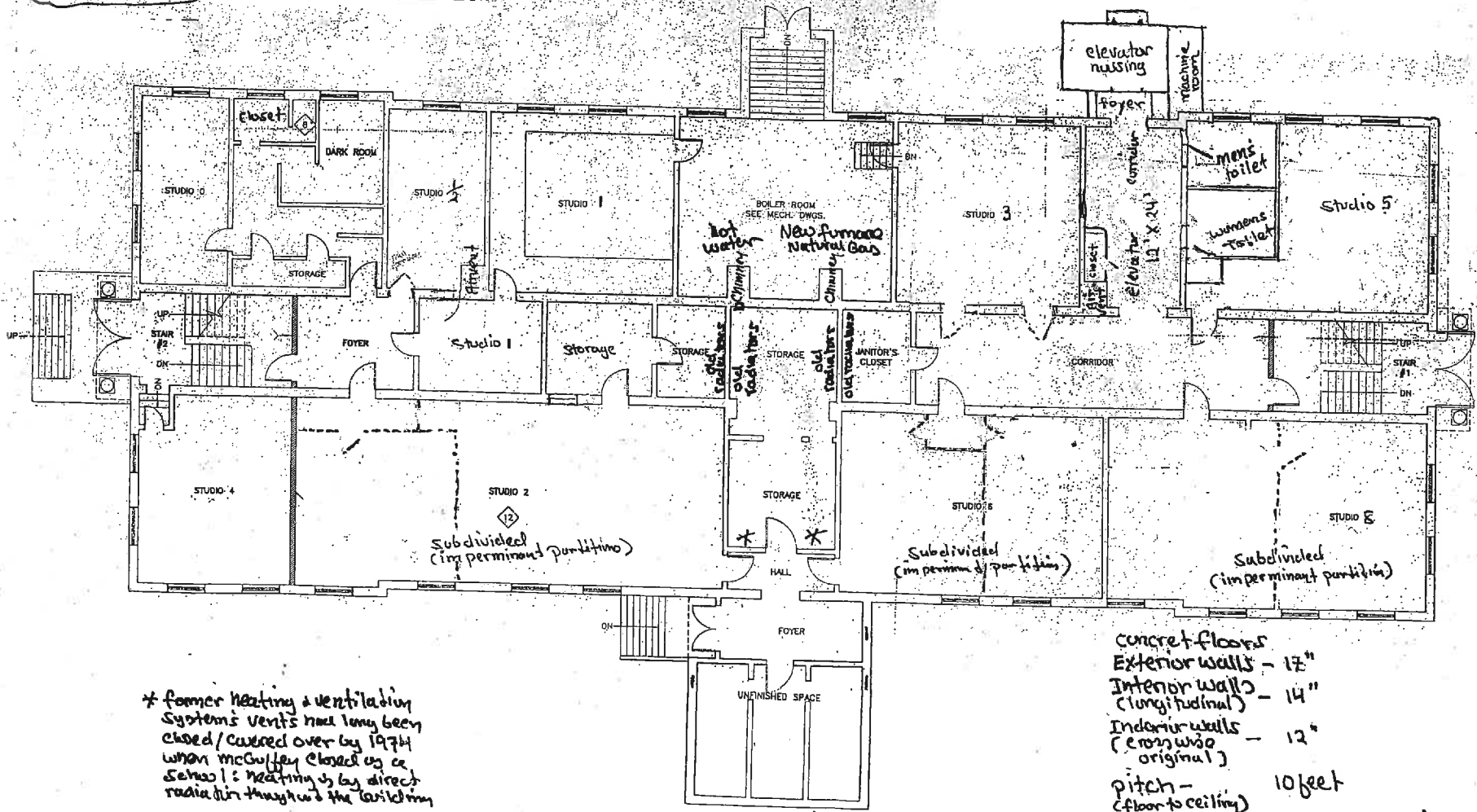
Exterior walls 14"
Interior walls (longitudinal) 14"
Interior walls (between class rooms) 12"
Interior walls (between class rooms & closets) 6 1/2"

pitch (floor to ceiling) 13 feet
(to picture rails) 10 feet / 8 inches

Basement: (After the renovation)
1996-2007 ^{1995/96}

The McGuffey School Building
1975-
The McGuffey Art Center

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street NW



66 feet

* former heating & ventilation systems vents had long been closed / covered over by 1974 when McGuffey closed as a school: heating is by direct radiation thru out the building

concrete floors
Exterior walls - 17"
Interior walls (longitudinal) - 14"
Interior walls (erosion original) - 12"
pitch - 10 feet (floor to ceiling)
All original basement walls are brick (interior)

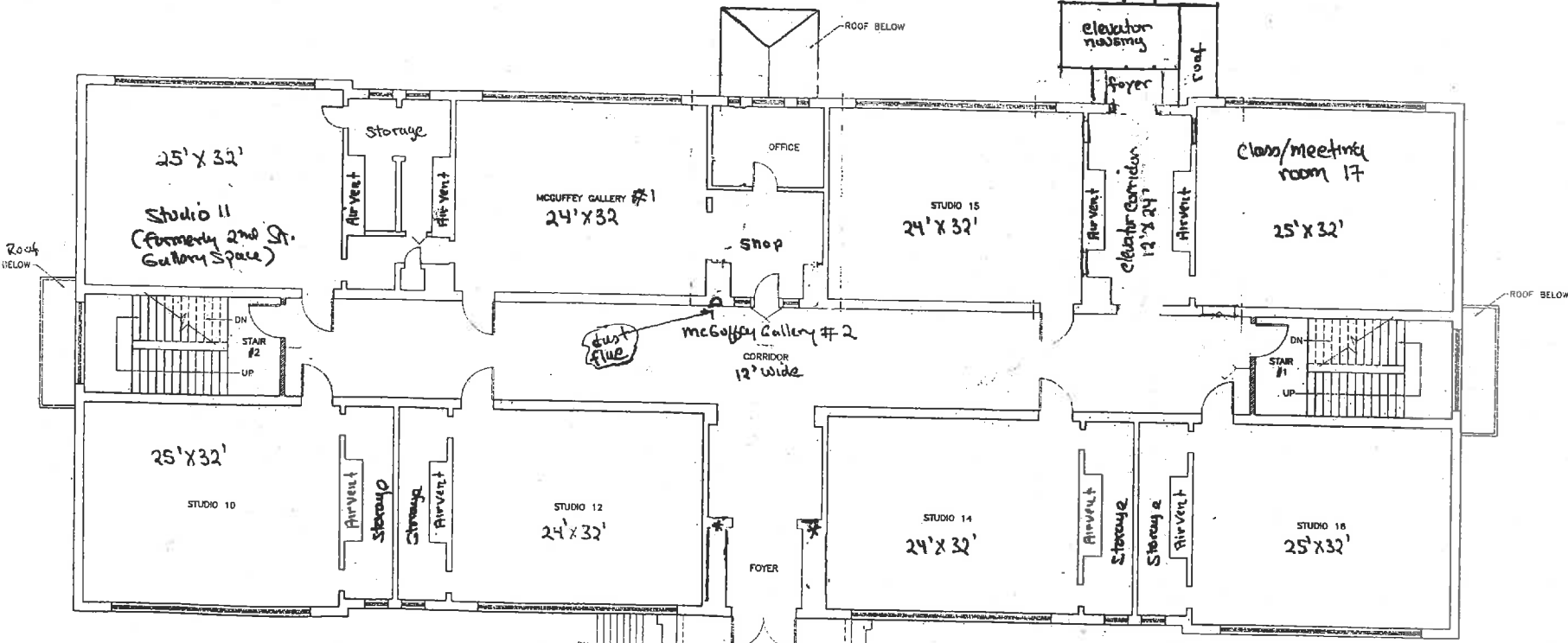
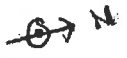
171 feet

1st Floor: (After the Renovation)
 1996-2007
 of 1995/96

(Most names are divided
 with permanent partitions
 between two or more artists)

The McGuffey School Building
 as
 The McGuffey Art Center
 1975-

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
 MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
 201 2nd St. N.W.



66 feet

* Former heating & ventilation
 system's vents had long been
 closed/covered over by 1974
 when McGuffey closed use as
 school; heating is by direct
 radiation throughout the bldg.

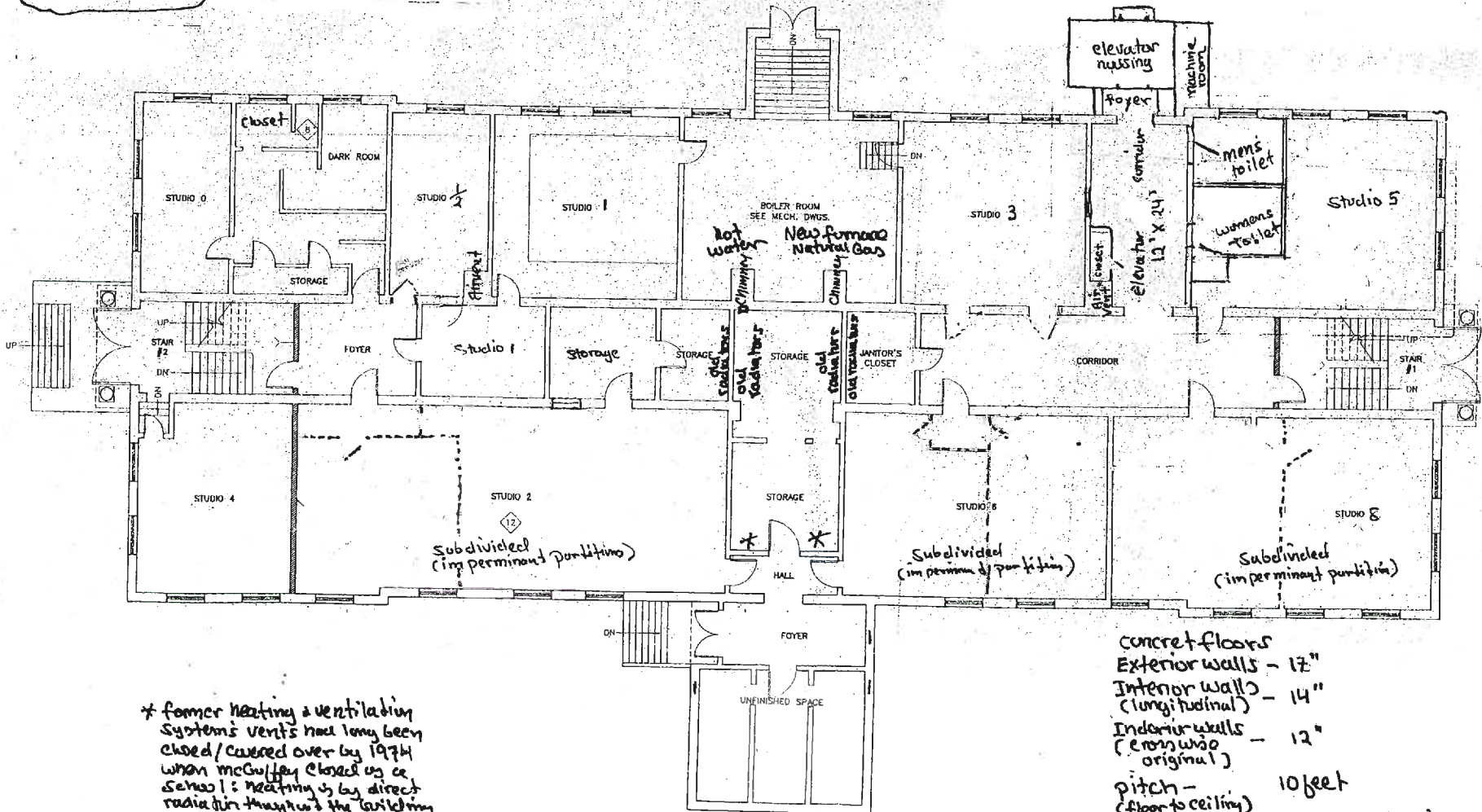
wood floors (maple)
 Exterior walls 14"
 Interior walls (longitudinal) 14"
 Interior walls (between class rooms) 12"
 Interior walls (between class room & class room) 6 1/2"
 Pitch 13 feet
 (to picture rail) 10 feet / 8 inches

171 feet

Basement: (After the renovation)
1996-2007
1995/96

The McGuffey School Building
as
The McGuffey Art Center
1975 -

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street NW



66 1/2 feet

* former heating & ventilation systems vents had long been closed / covered over by 1974 when McGuffey closed as a school; heating is by direct radiator throughout the building

concrete floors
Exterior walls - 12"
Interior walls (longitudinal) - 14"
Interior walls (crosswise original) - 12"
pitch - 10 feet (floor to ceiling)
All original basement walls are brick (interior)

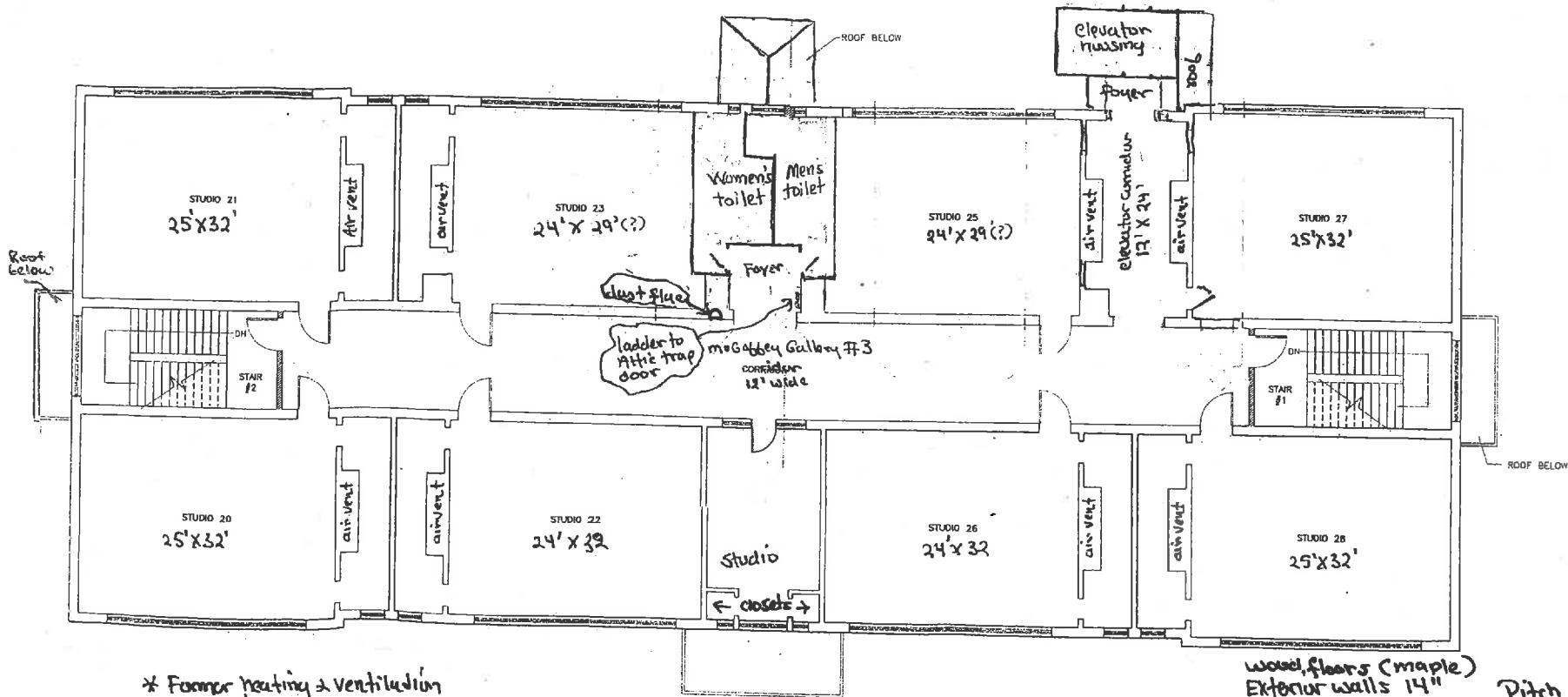
171 feet

2nd floor: (After the Renovation)
1996-2007

(most rooms are divided between two or more artists with im permanent partitions)

The McGuffey School Building
as
The McGuffey Art Center
1975-

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
MCGUFFEY ART CENTER
201 2nd Street NW



66.5 feet

* Former heating & ventilation systems vents had long been covered/closed up by 1974 when McGuffey closed as a school; heating is by direct radiation through out the bldg.

wood floors (maple)
Exterior walls 14"
Interior walls (longitudinal) 4"
Interior walls (between class rooms) 12"
Interior walls (between classrooms) 6 1/2"
class rooms

Pitch 13 feet
to picture 10 feet /
rod 8 inches

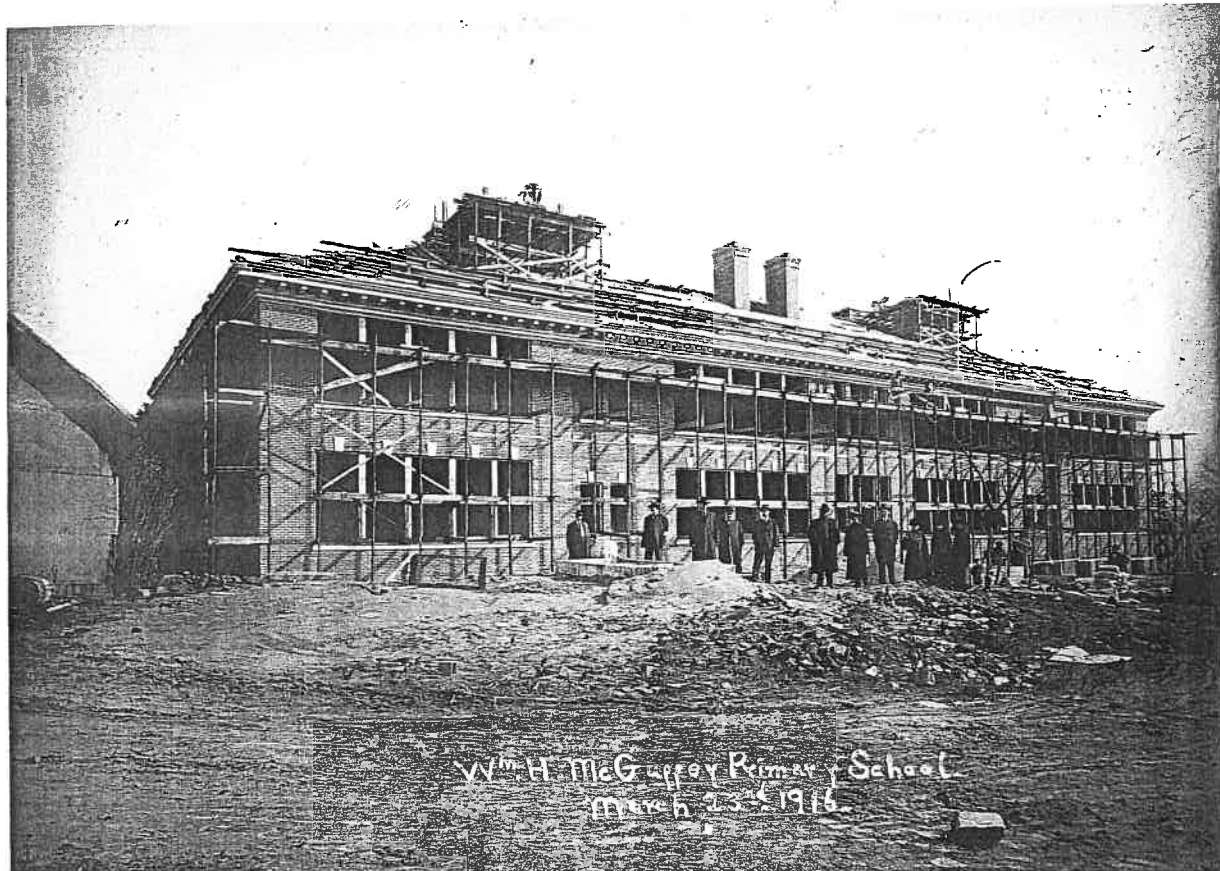
71 feet



The Wm. H. McCuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia
Zufus Holsinger
March 23, 1916
Holsinger Studio Collection
Special Collections
University of Virginia Library
Neg. # X 3982 BB

①

Front view of building under
construction, from Market &
2nd Street NW corner, with
city officials, et al. (Dr. James
G. Johnson, the superintendent of
schools & buildings "Georgetown"
among them)

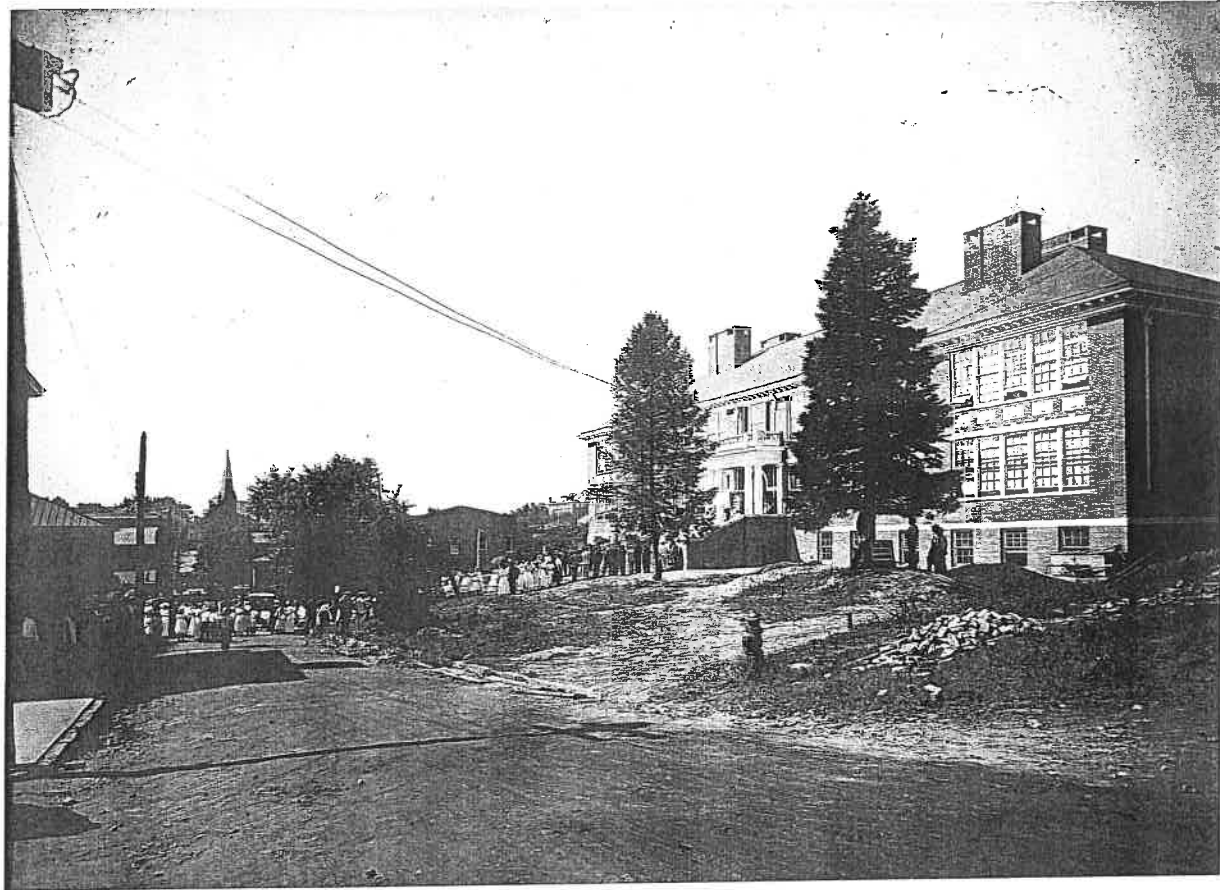


Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
March 23, 1916

Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Va.
Rufus Holsinger
March 23, 1916
Holsinger Studio Collection
Special Collections
University of Virginia Library
Neg. # X 3982 CB

(2)

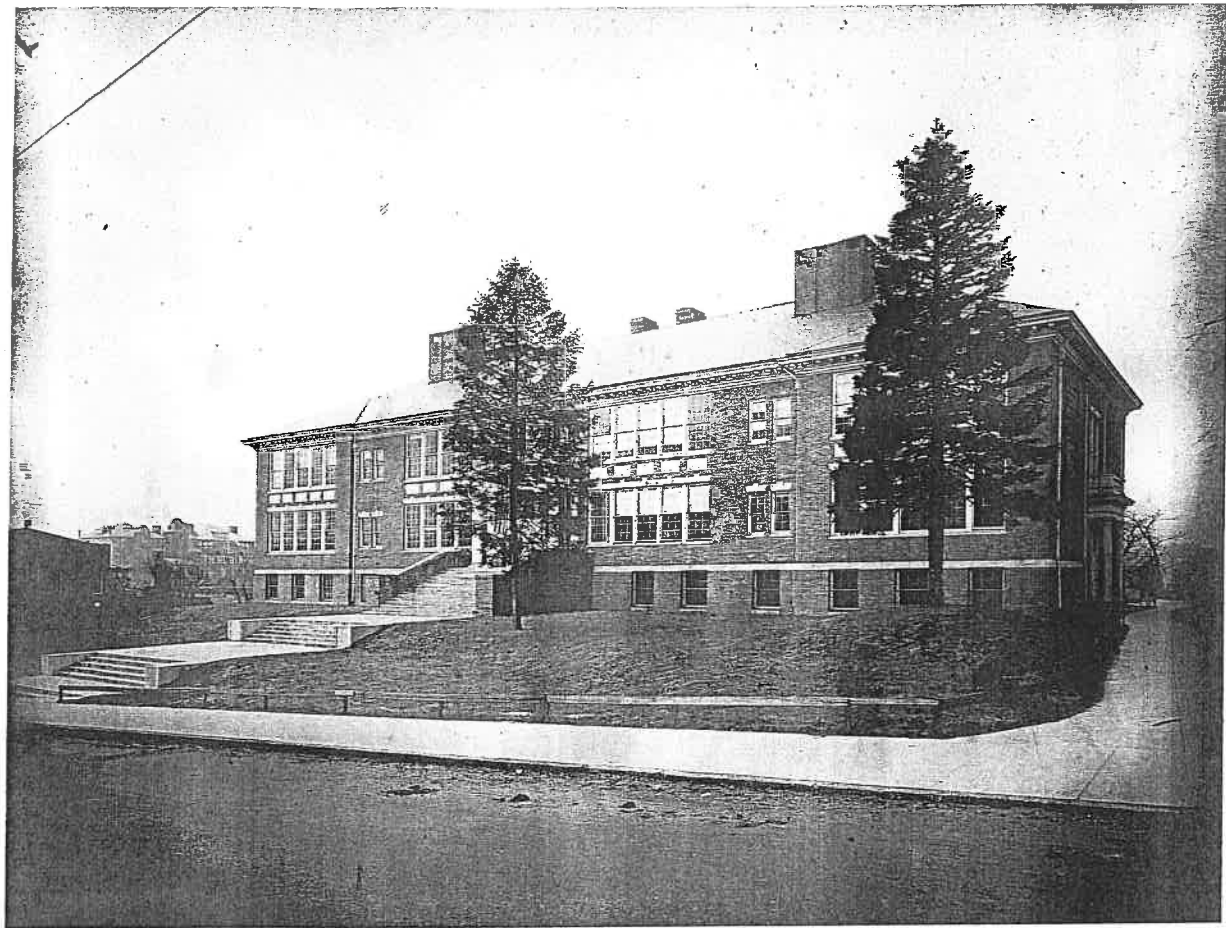
Clear view of the
building under
construction with
city officials in the
foreground (center
with one of a top of
chimneys) and
NW 1/4 NW 1/4 West.



Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia
Rufus Holsinger
Sept. 6, 1916
Holsinger Studio Collection
Special Collection
University of Virginia Library
neg. # X 4406 B1

(3)

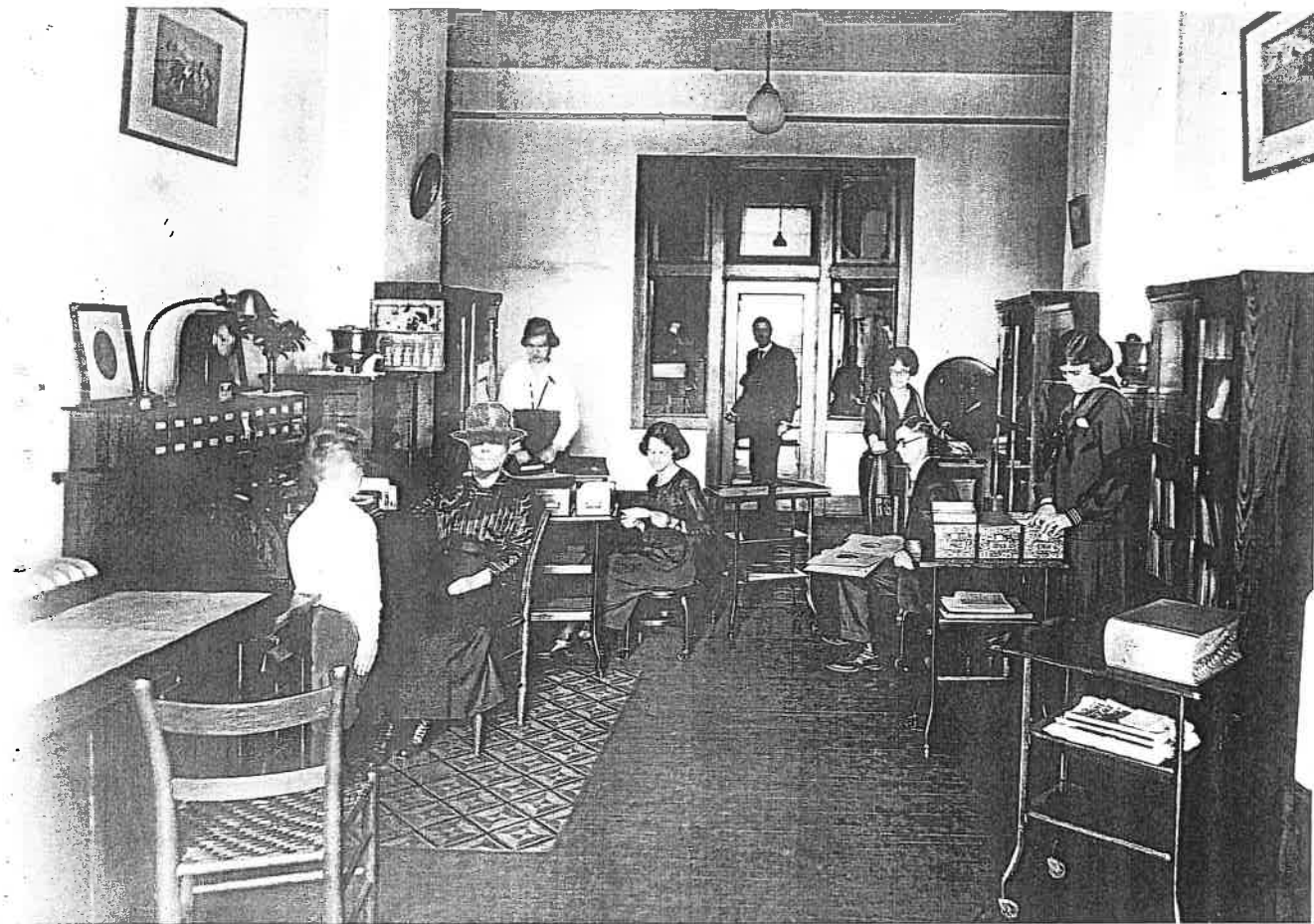
View from 2nd Street N.W.
(approaching Jefferson St. from
the North) of the opening ceremony
of the McGuffey
School. With officials, teachers
& pupils went from Midway School
(center for children) to their new primary
School building, just completed.



Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia
Rufus Holsinger
Nov. 1918
Holsinger Studio Collection
Special Collections
University of Virginia
Neg. #X7042 B

(4)

View from corner of
2nd Street NW, and
Jefferson Street SW
(East/Northwest),
looking North/Northwest



Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
 Charlottesville, Virginia
 William Gitchell?
 ca 1920?
 Charlottesville-Albemarle
 Historical Society Library
 Print only

5

Front Foyer (1st floor)

(was the principal's office. Miss
 Carrie E. Burnley, principal 1916-1944,
 sat to the left) looking across
 the longitudinal corridor to
 the superintendent of schools
 office (standing in front of door
 Dr. James G. Johnson, superin-
 tendent 1909-1944; it was Dr. Johnson
 who conceptualized the bldg. as it
 continues to stand)



Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
Charlottesville, Virginia
William Gitchell?
cc 1920?
Charlottesville-Albemarle
Historical Society Library
Print only

6

Note! Not a
fest. design
in wall above
blackboard

Class Room
(on front side of bldg)

Standing (in background): the teacher -
unidentified) & Miss Carrie C. Burnley
(Principal 1816-1945); in foreground
is Dr. James G. Johnson, Superintendent
of schools (1909-1945)



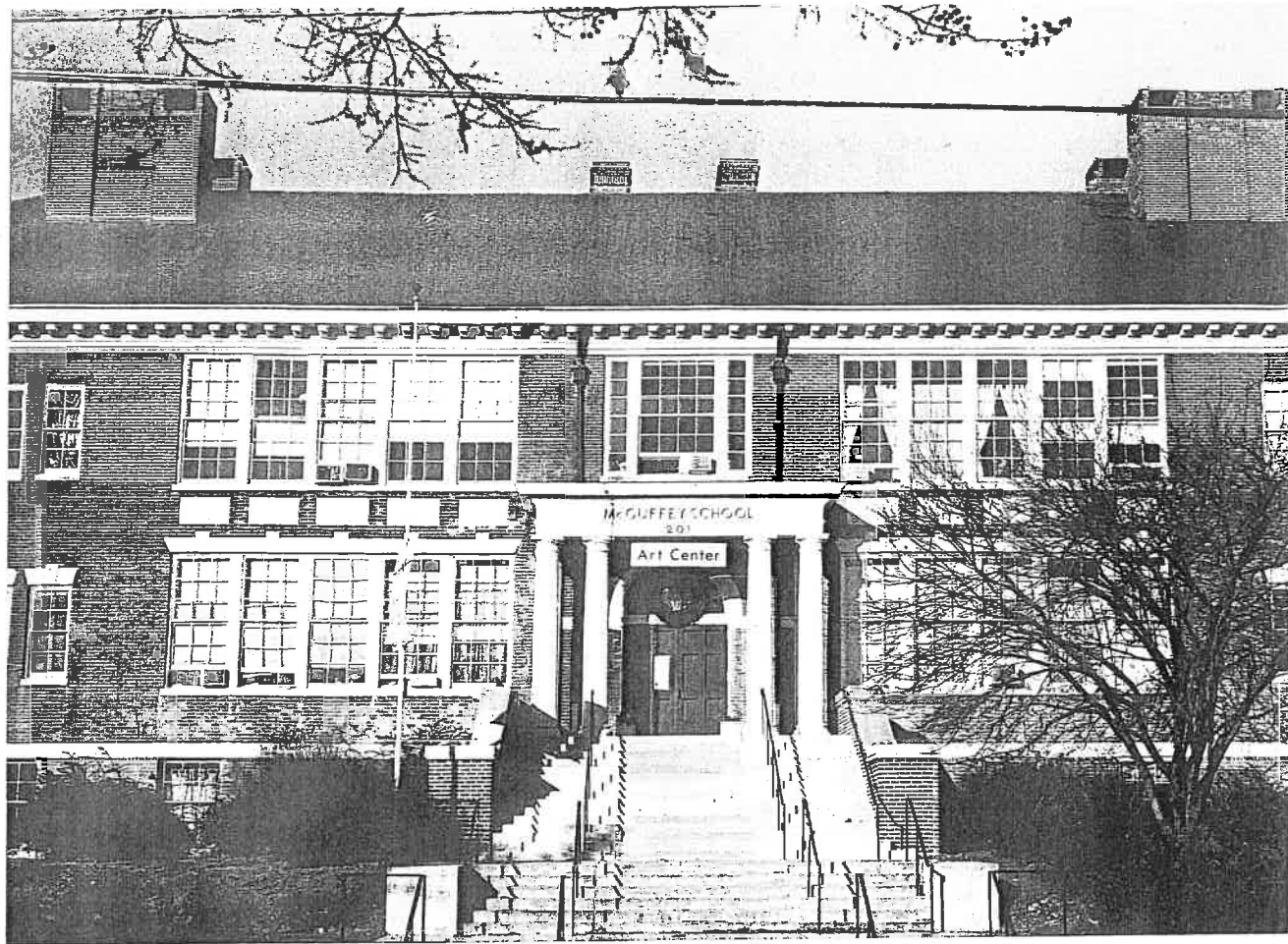
Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School
 Charlottesville, Virginia
 ca 1930's? William Gitcheil?
 Charlottesville-Albemarle
 Historical Society Library
 Print only

⑦

note! Not and
 front also ignore
 in wall above
 rear blackboard

Class Room
 (front side of bldg.)

Standing in background:
 Miss Carrie E. Burnley, Principal (1916-1945),
 Dr. James G. Johnson, School Superintendent
 (1909-1945) & Teacher (unidentified). Dr.
 Johnson not only envisioned/conceptualized
 the HSG bldg but a number of other Sch. School
 buildings during his tenure.



The McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly The Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School) (8)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift Dec. 2006
Neg. in the possession of the photographer

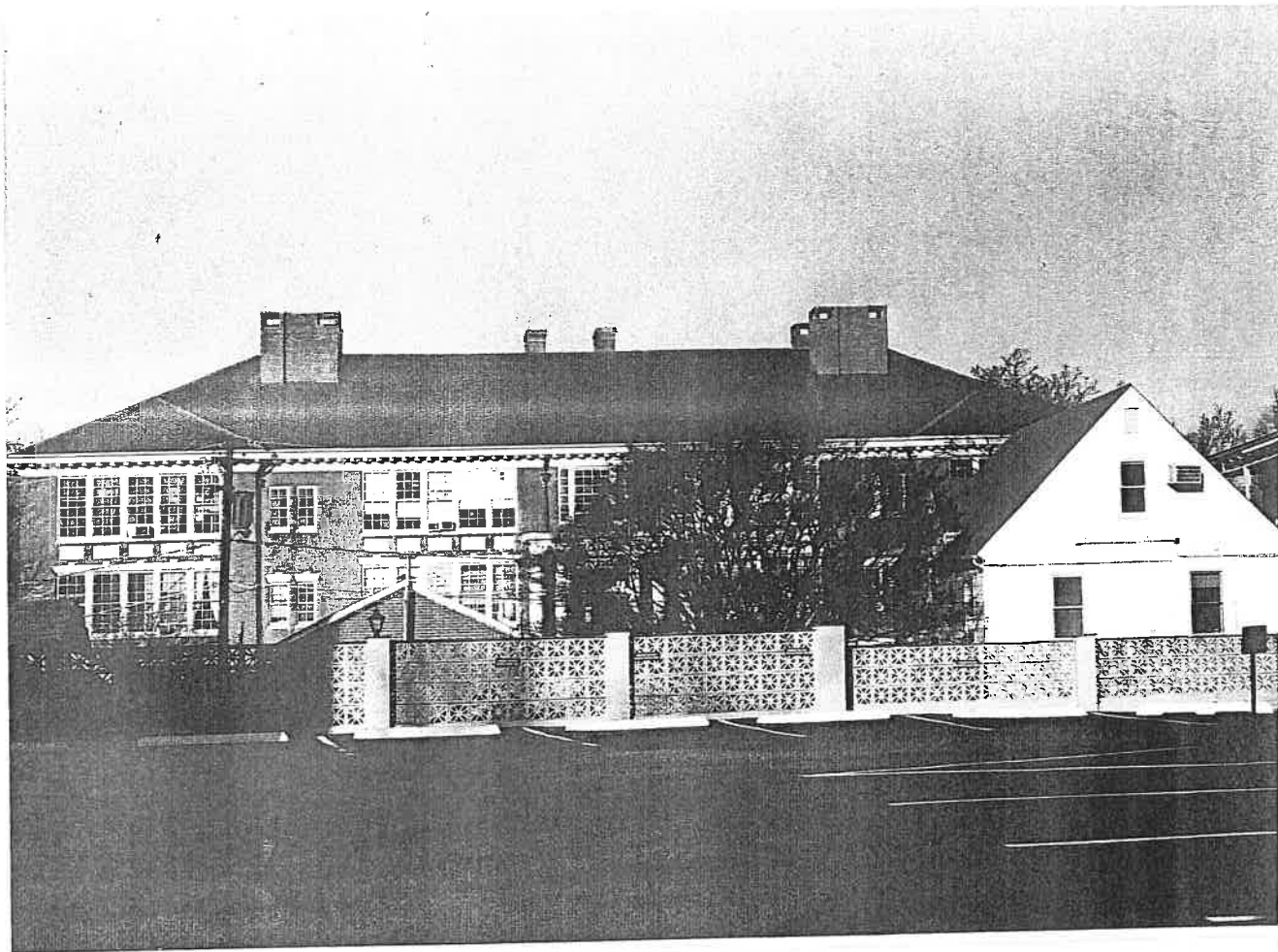
(Facade of Bldg,
looking west)



The McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School) (9)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift
Dec. 2006

Now, in the possession of the photographer

From Lee Park
(Looking west)



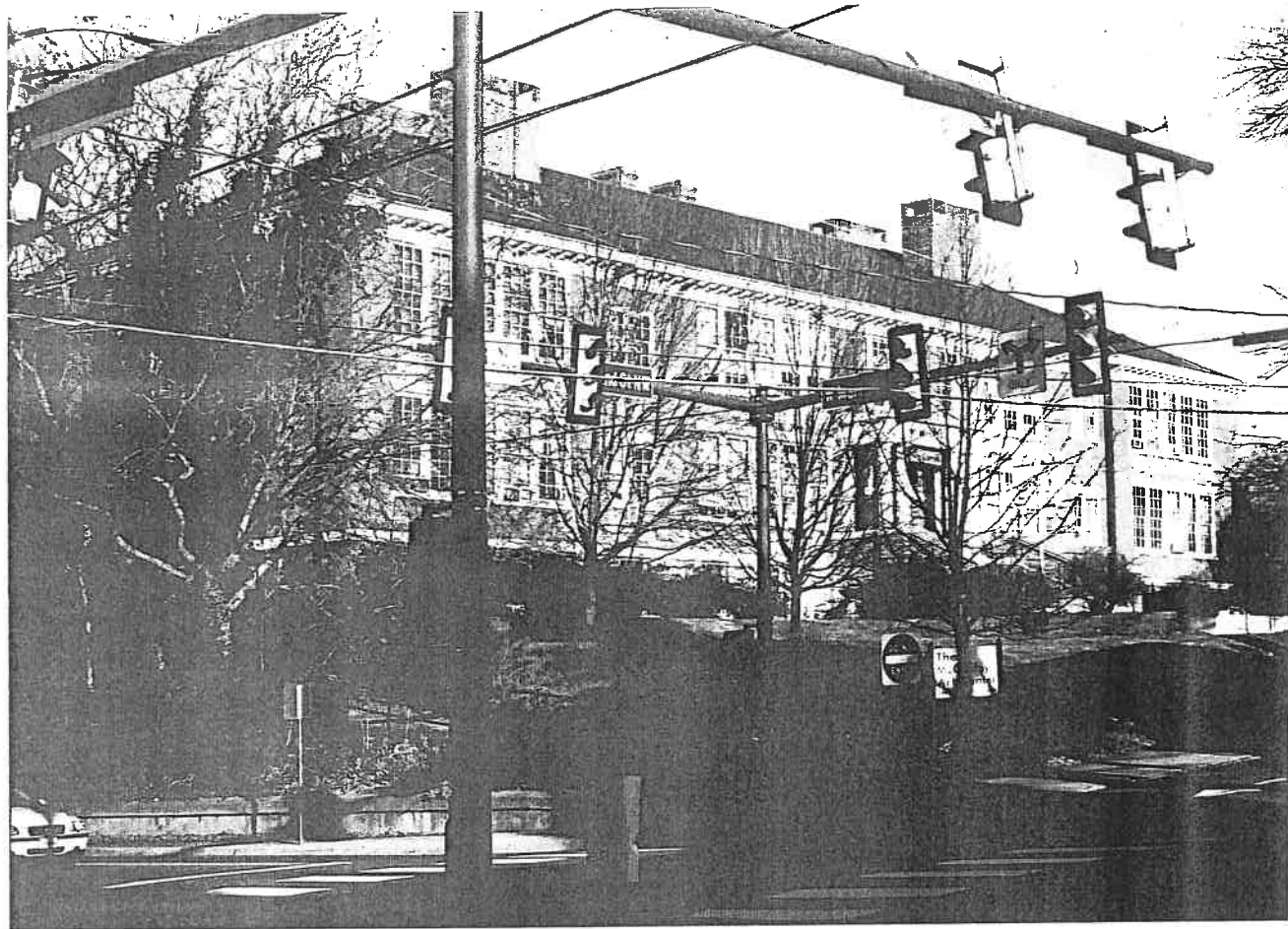
the McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia

10

Richard Thrift
Dec. 2006

Neg. in the possession of the photographer

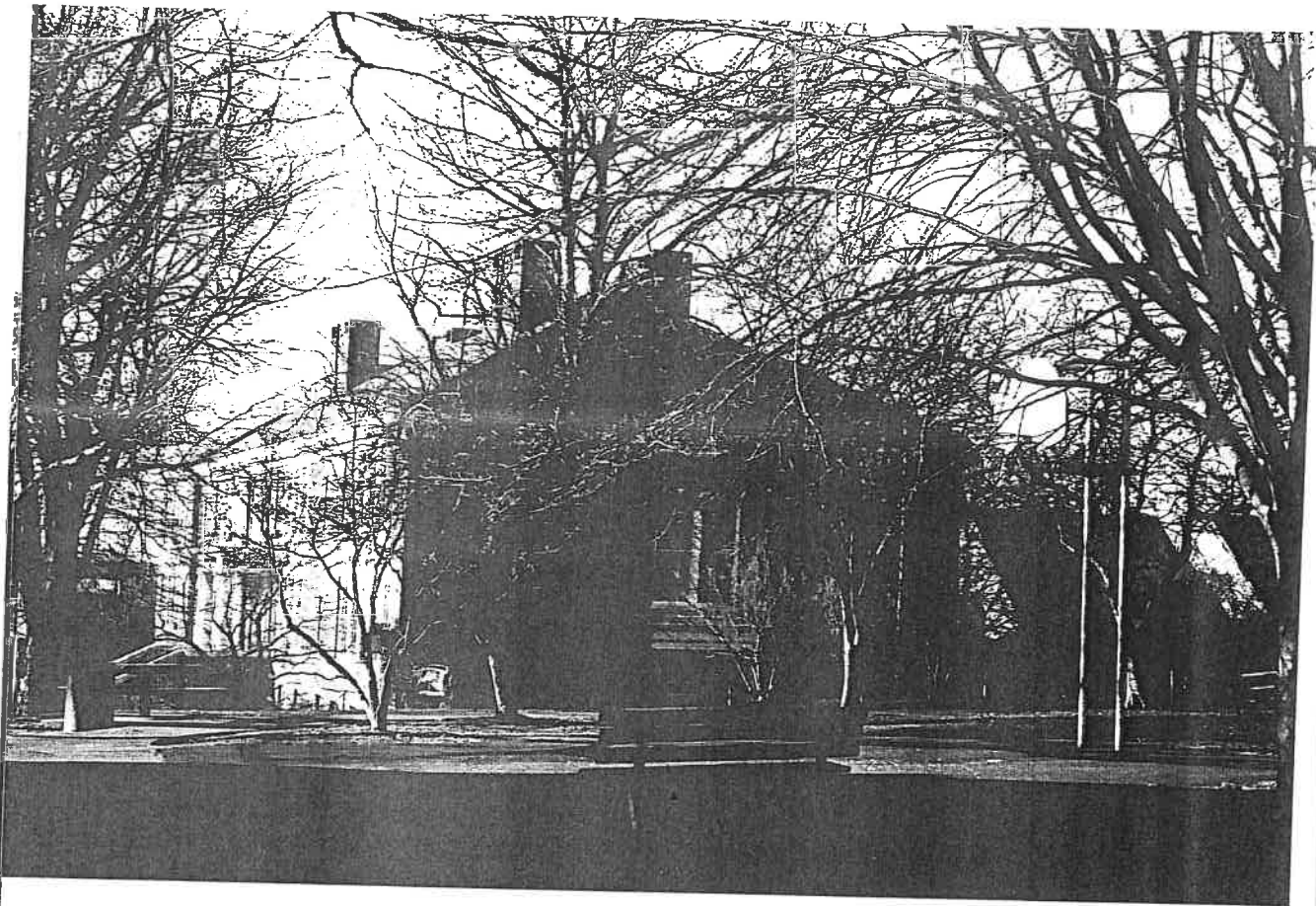
From 103rd St N.W.
(Looking West)



The McGuffey Art Center
Corner of the W. McGuffey Primary / Elementary School
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thoyt
Dec. 2006
Neg. in possession of the photographer

(11)

From the corner of market
& 2nd Street N.W. view
from the south west

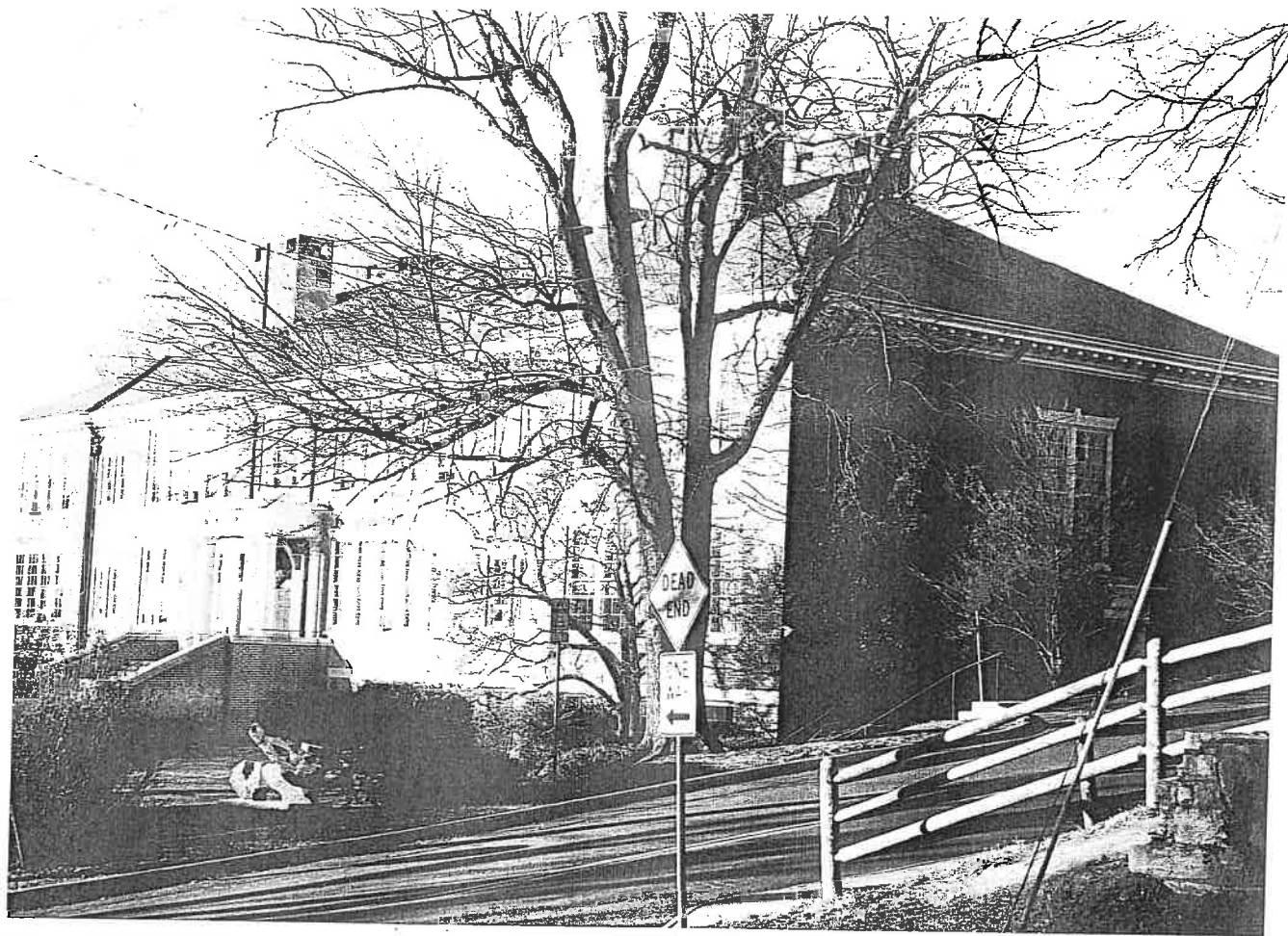


The McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift
Dec. 2006

(12)

Neg. in the possession of the photographer

From McGuffey Park
(Looking south/southwest)



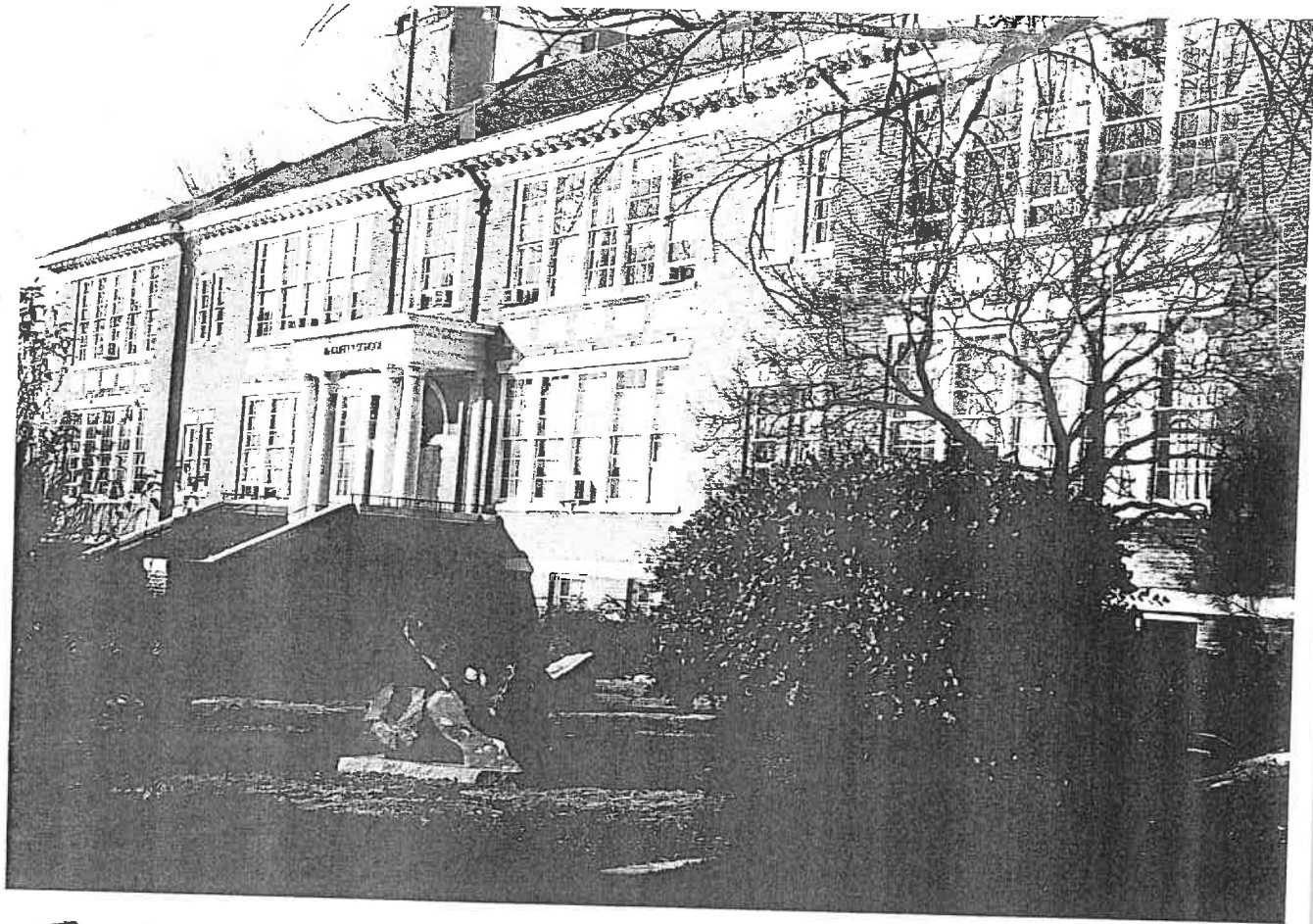
The McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Truitt

Dec. 2006

Neg. in the possession of the photographer

13

(From the corner of Jefferson St.
& 2nd Street N.W. Looking
South / South West)

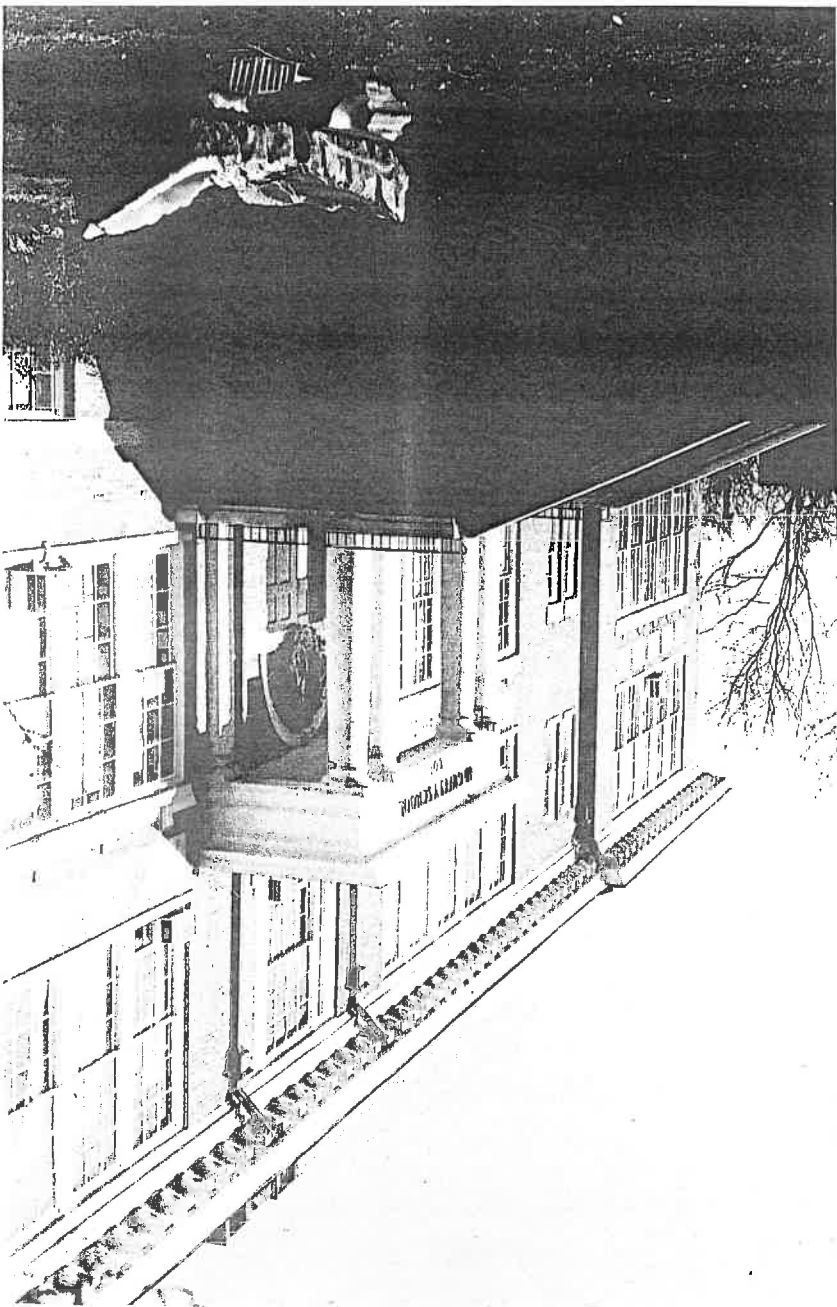


The McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. M. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Dec. 2006

(14)

Now in the possession of the photographer

(The front facade of
the bldg, looking south/
south west)



The McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey
Primary School)

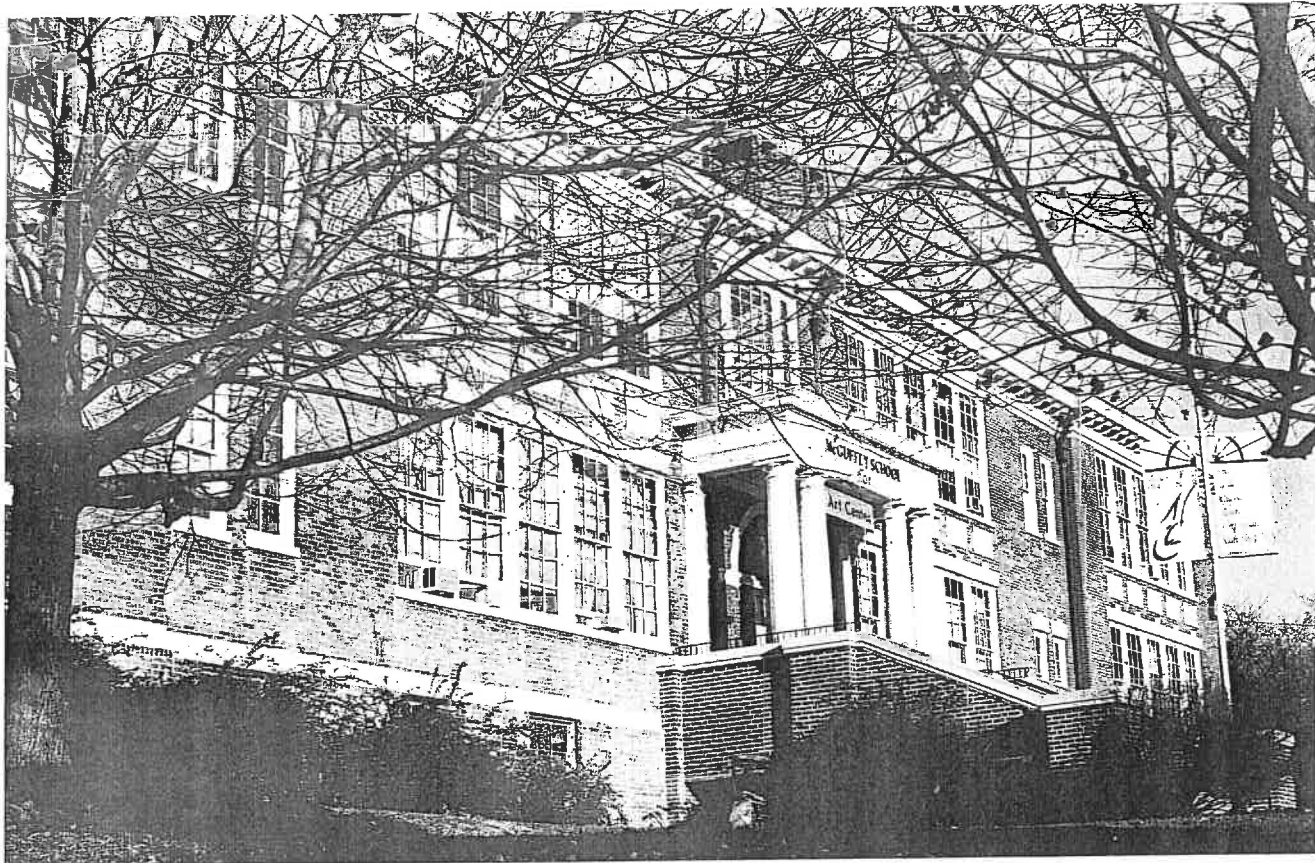
15

Charlottesville, Virginia

Richard Tinsley Dec. 2006

Neg. in the possession of the photographer

(The facade of the
building facing 2nd
Street NW, as
one looks south/
southwest)



The McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift Dec. 2006
Neg. in the possession of the photographer

16

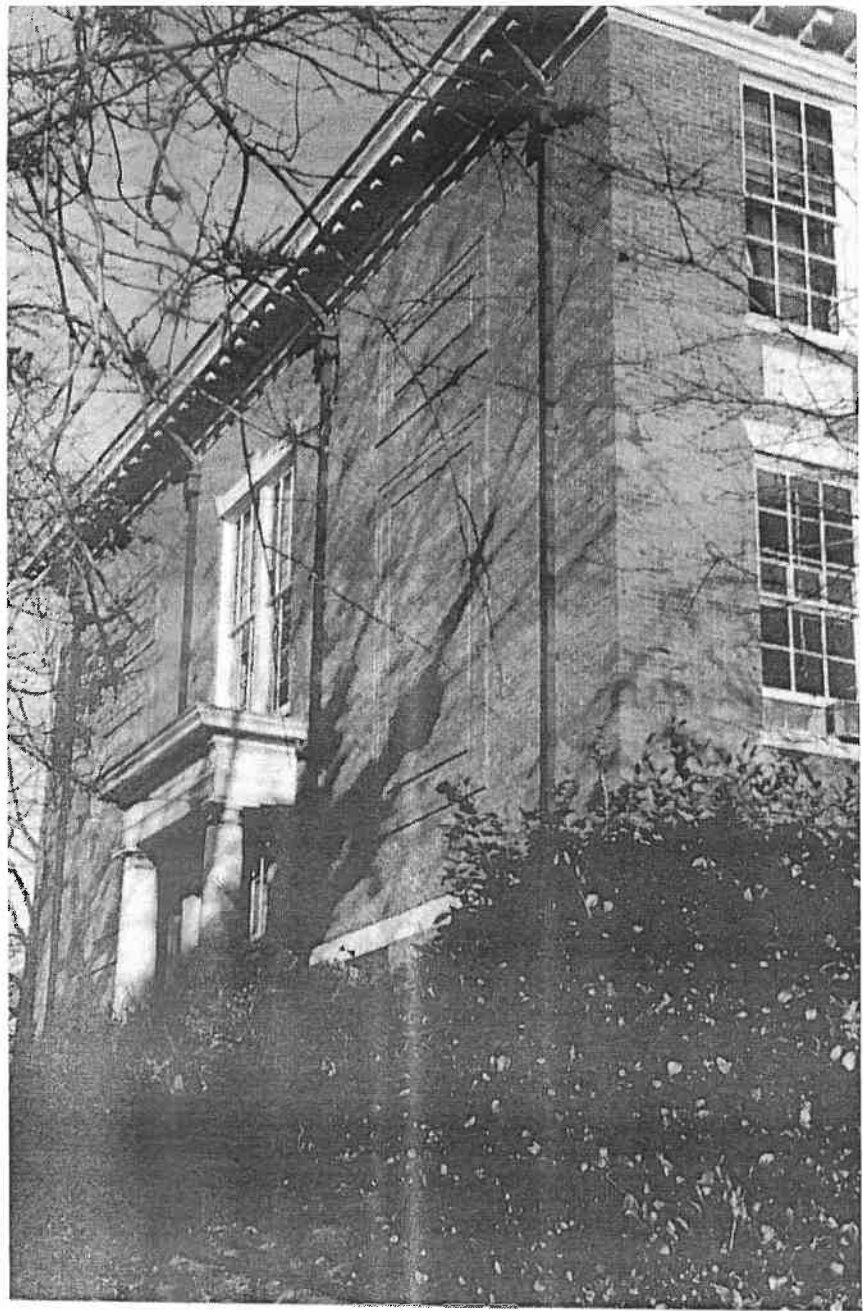
(Facade of building,
looking towards
the North / Northwest)



the McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift Dec. 2006
View in the foreground by the photographer

(17)

(South end of the building,
looking towards the west/
northwest)



The McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey
Primary School)

Charlottesville, Virginia

Renovated Through Dec 2006

Now in the possession of the photographer

(18)

(Southeast corner
of the building, looking
towards the North / North
west)

The McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey
Primary School)

Charlottesville, Virginia

Richard Thrift Dec. 2006

neg. in the possession of the photographer

(19)

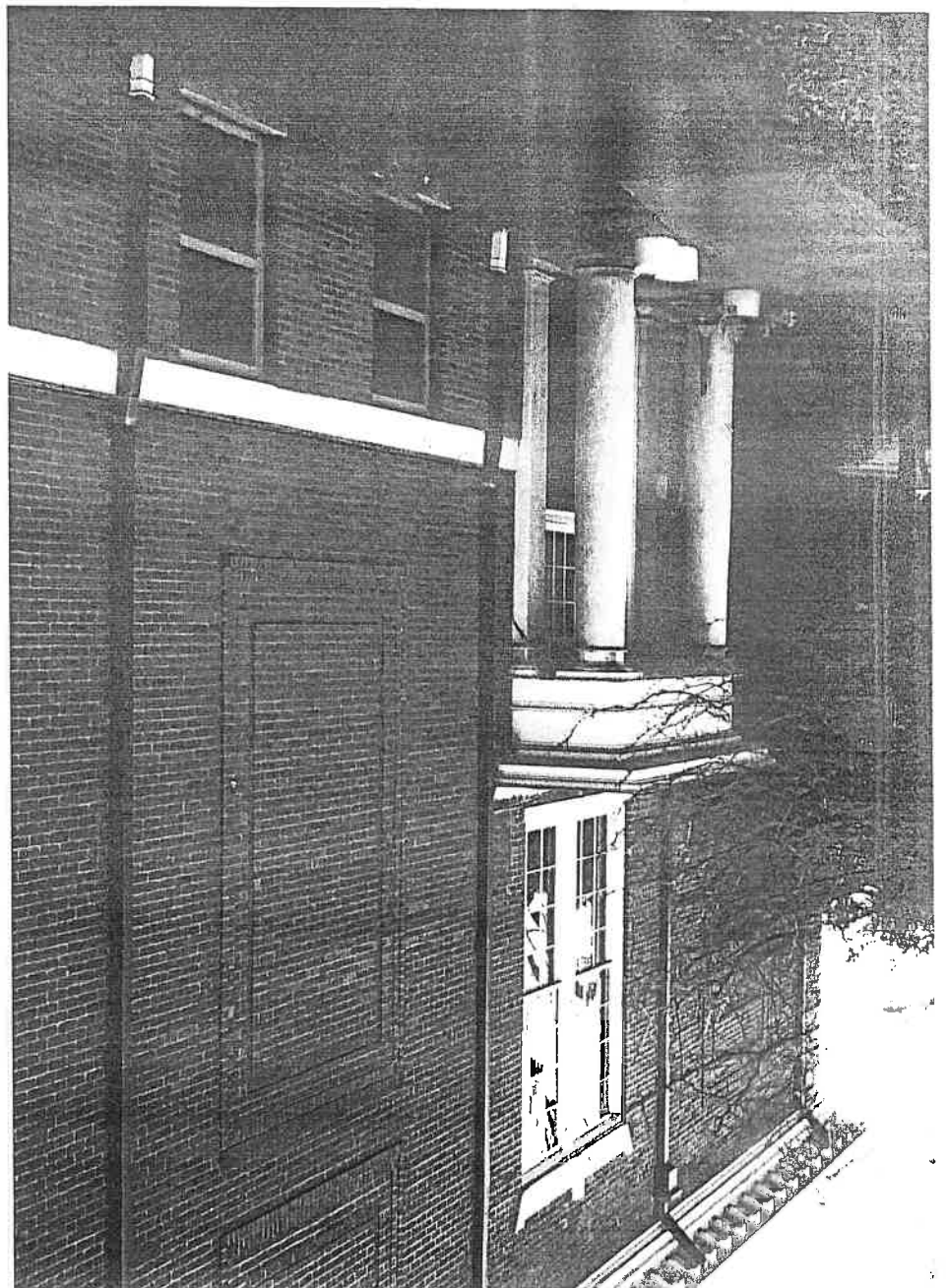
(South end of the block,
looking towards the
north east)

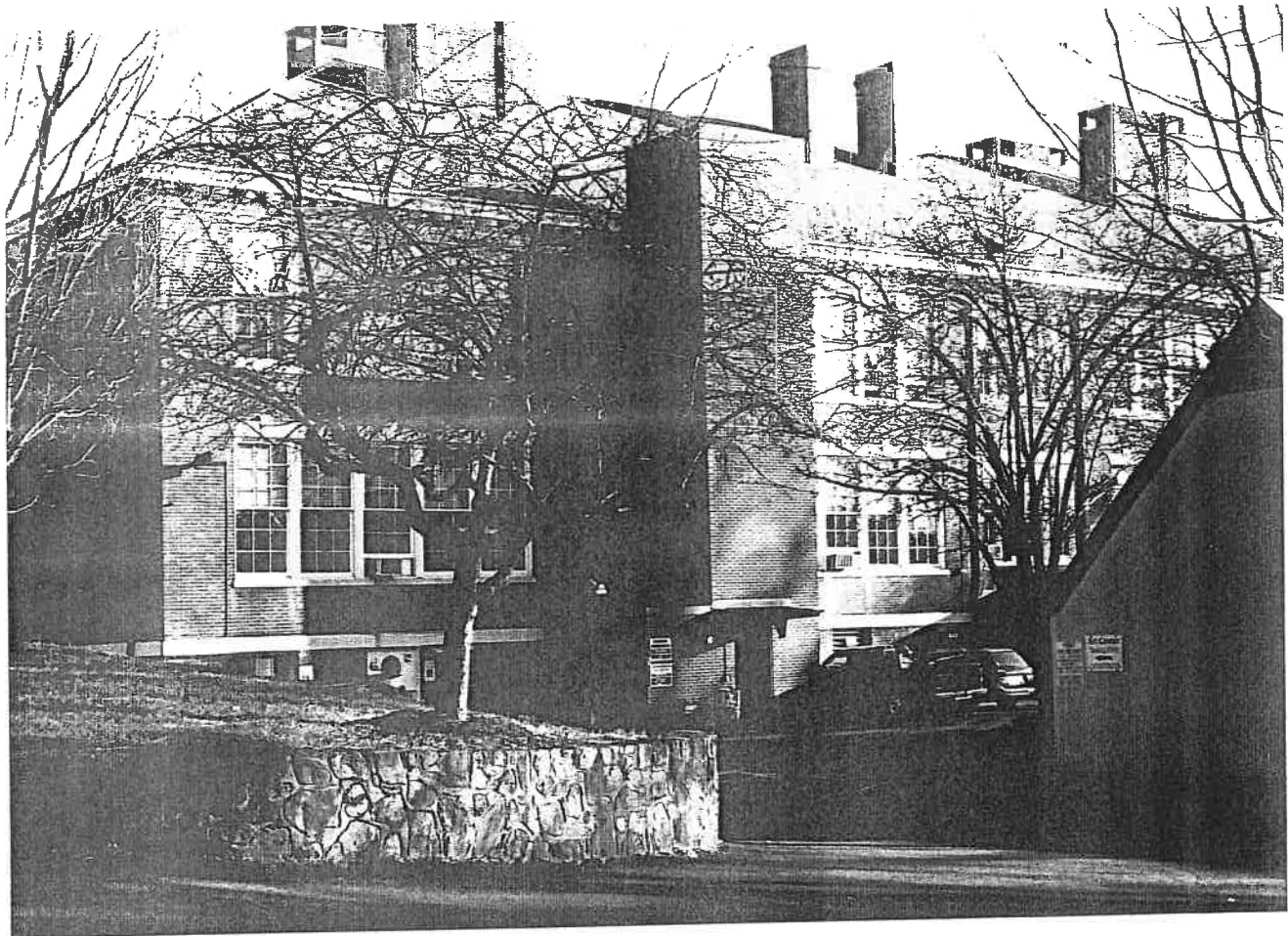


The McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey
Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Throft Dec. 2006
Neg. in the possession of the photographer

20

(North end of the bldg.,
looking towards the
east/southeast)

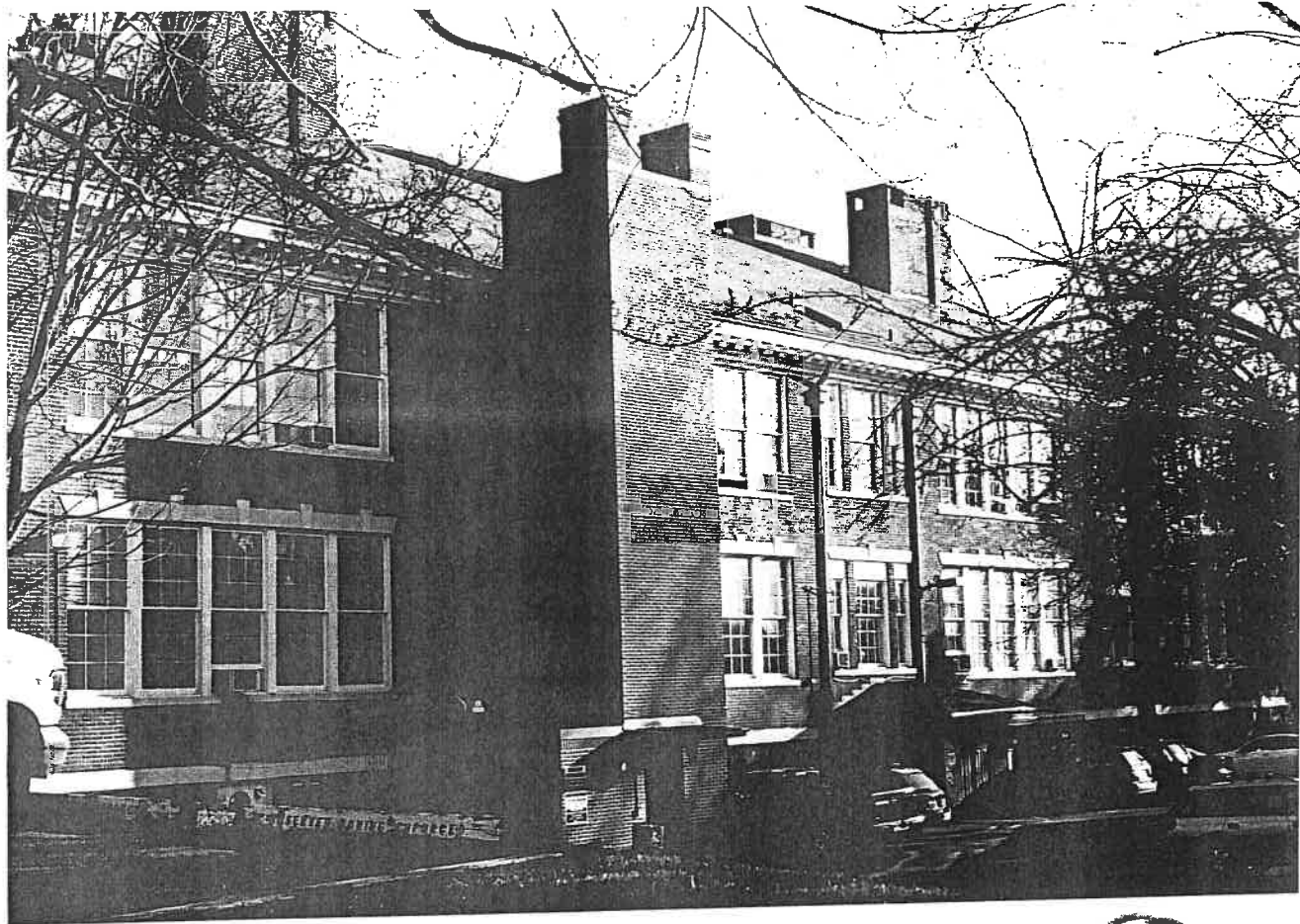




the McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Printing Shop)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift Dec. 2006
View in the presence of the photographer

(21)

(Rear view of the bldg
from the McGuffey Hill
condos parking lot,
looking towards the
South/Southwest)



The McGuffay Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffay Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia

Richard Thrift
Dec. 2006

Neg. in the possession of the photographer

(22)

(Rear view of the building,
looking towards the
SW/NW corner)



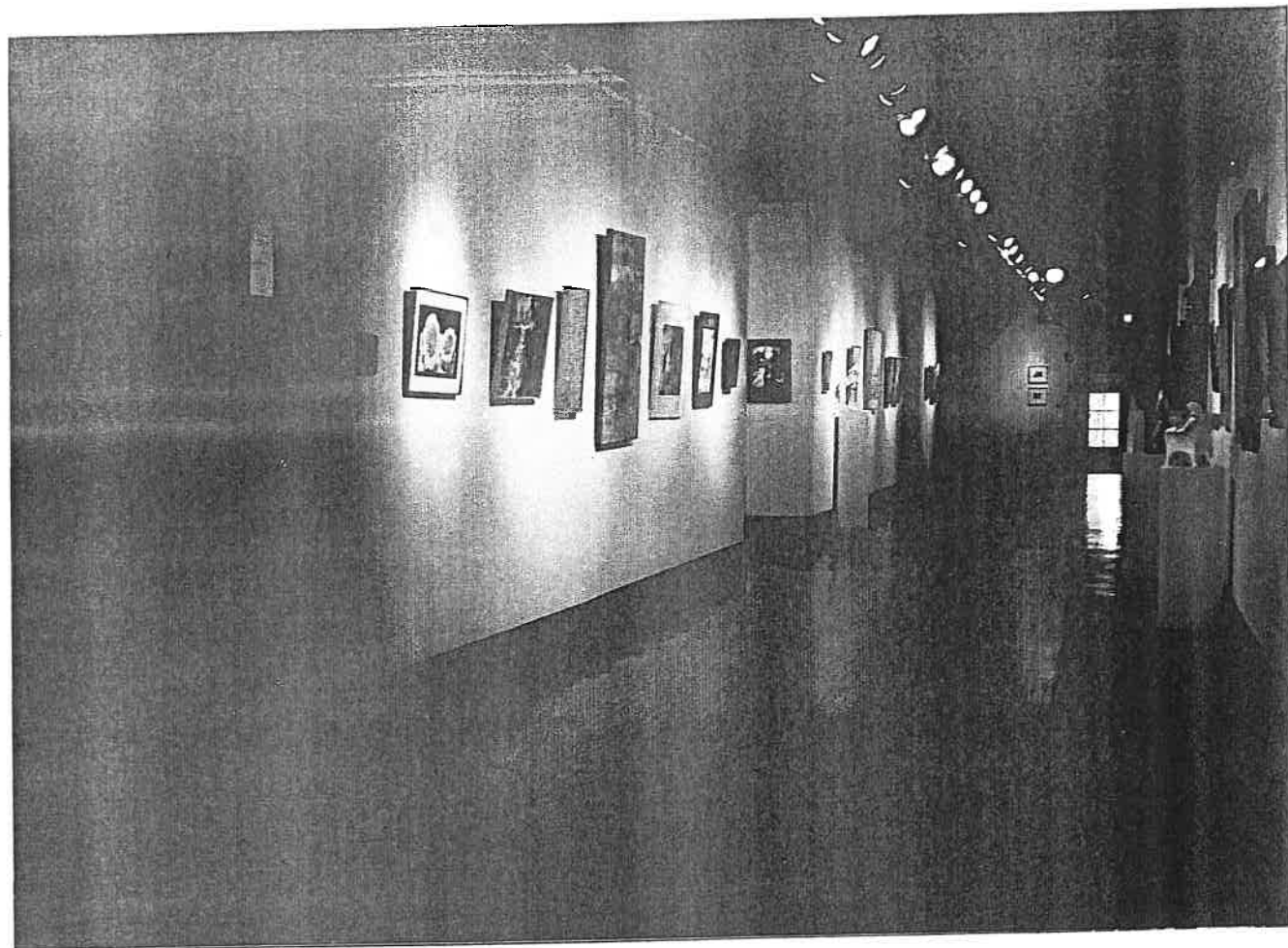
The Mc Guffey Art Center
(formerly The Wm. H. Mc Guffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia

Richard Thrift
Dec. 2006

Key in the possession of the photographer

23

The first (1st floor) Floor
looking along the longitudinal
corridor toward the gallery
stop (formerly the office of
the Superintendent of Schools,
Dr. James G. Johnson)



The Mc Guffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. Mc Guffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift
Dec. 2006
Neg. in the possession of the photographer

24

(1st floor longitudinal corridor,
from North end looking towards
the South end, Fire wall & door
since 1975 have blocked off the
view to the stairs & south end
window on 1st/2nd floor landing)

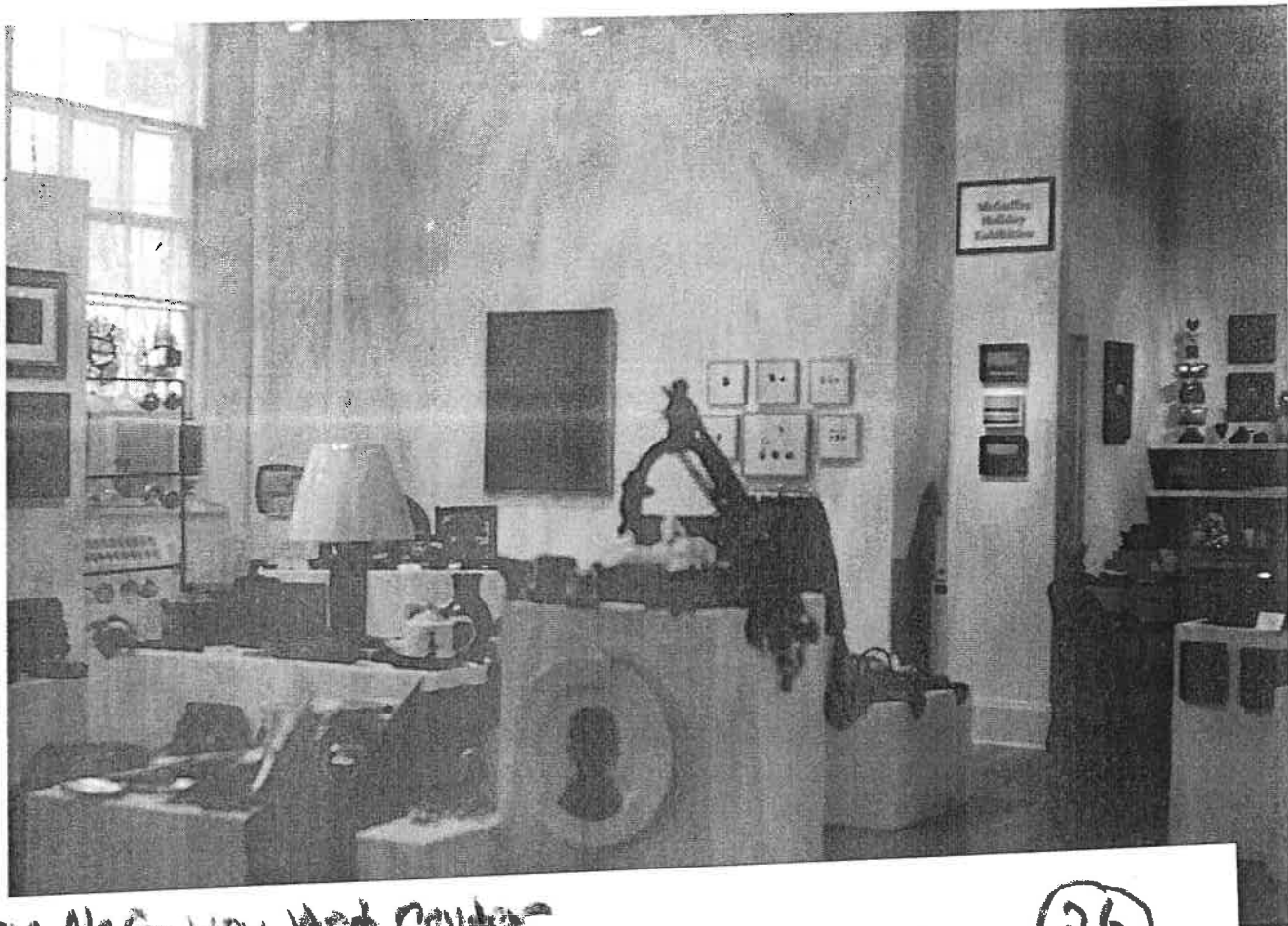


The McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thruft
Dec. 2006

(25)

Now in the possession of the photographer

Print workshop studio
(was classroom I studied
in the 1920's/30's photo-
graphy)

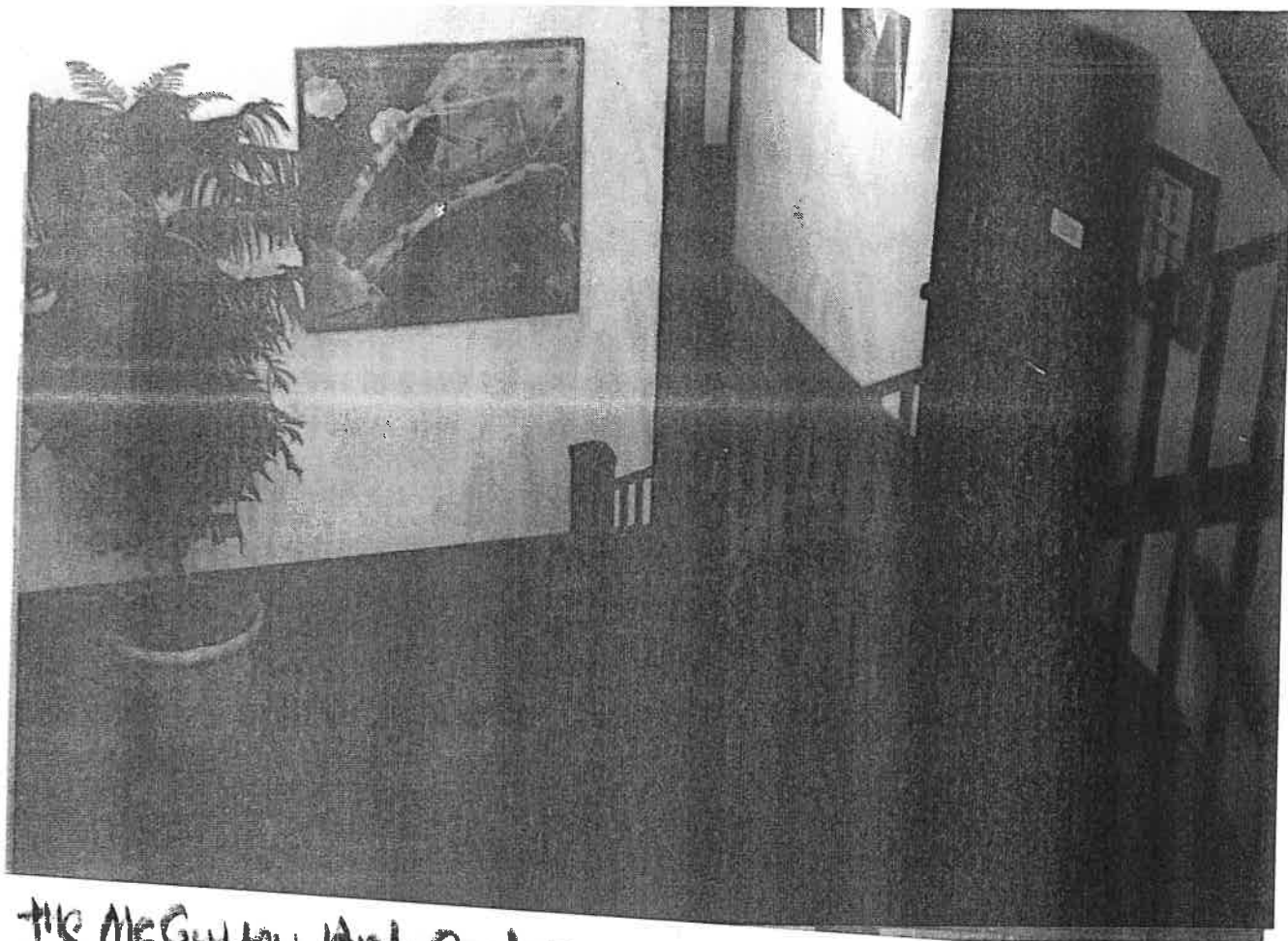


The McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thruft
Dec. 2006

(26)

Now in the possession of the photographer

Main Gallery (former classroom)
on the rear side of the bldg, next
to the gym. After 1980 the
street level in the wall between
the office & the gallery, part of
the office was turned into a
shop & left open between it
and the gallery



The McGuffey Art Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia

(27)

Richard Threlkoff
Dec. 2006

Key in the person of the photographer

(View from West's stairwell
landing between 1st & 2nd
floor)



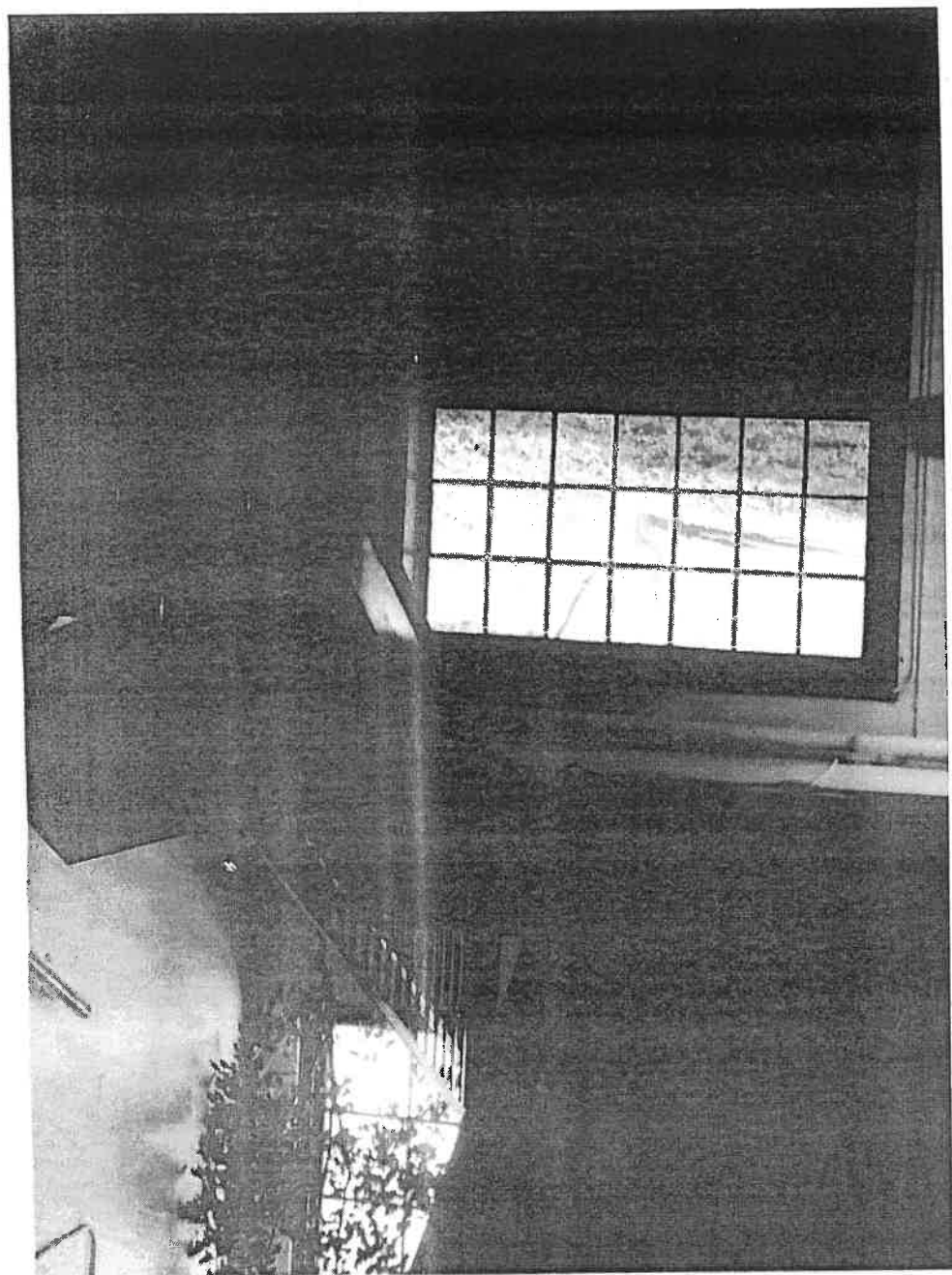
The McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia

Richard Thrijt
Dec. 2006

Neg. in the possession of the photographer

(28)

(View of North Stair's landing
and door, towards the
landing between floors 1 & 2)



The McGuffey Art Center
(formerly The Wm. H. McGuffey
Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift
Dec. 2006

(29)

Neg. in the possession of the photographer

(View of North end stairs,
looking up to the landing
between 1st & 2nd floors &
looking down to North end
exit door on landing between
1st floor and the North base-
ment entrance)

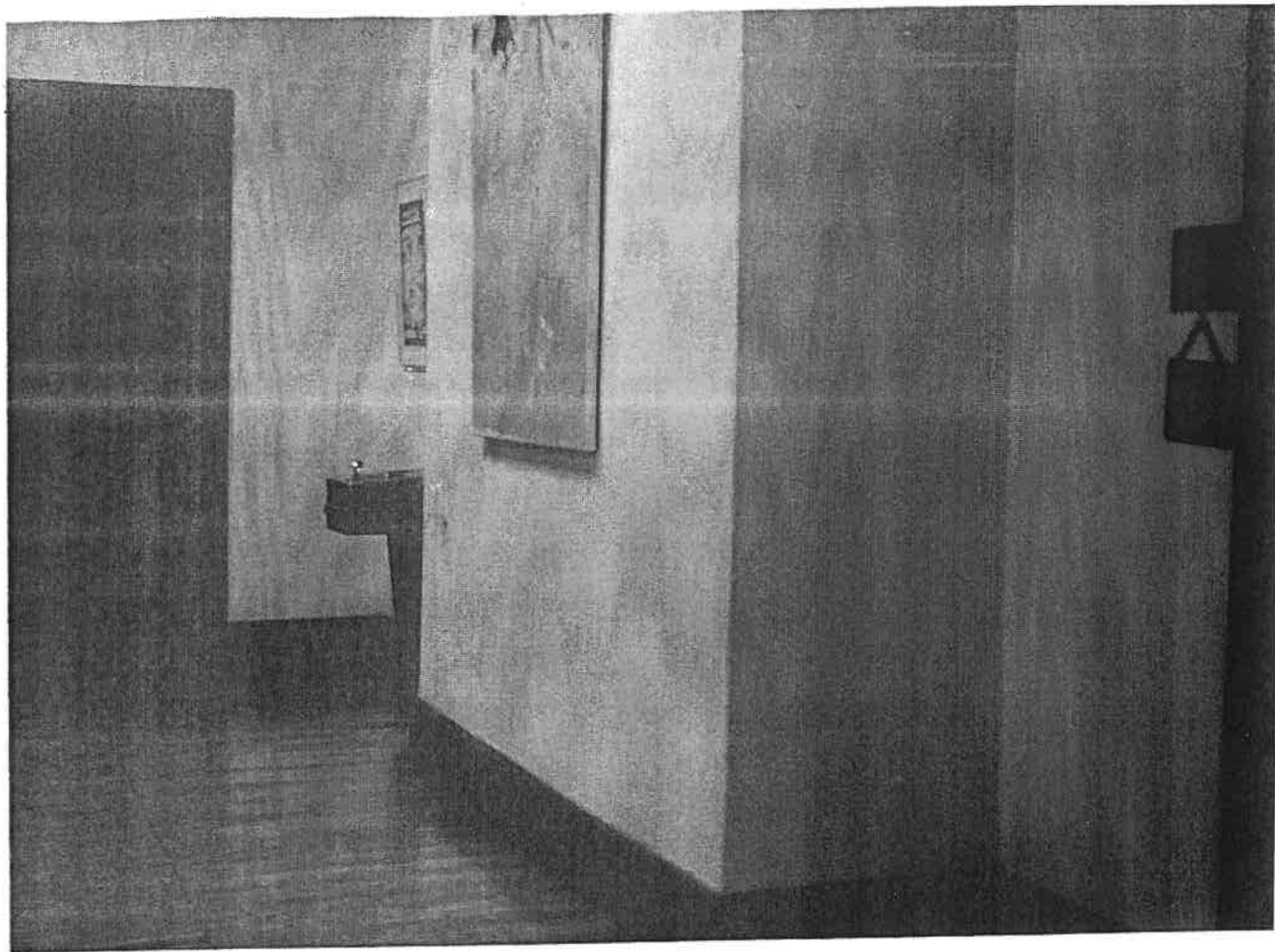


The McGuffey Art Center
(formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thright
Dec. 2006

(30)

Neg. in the possession of the photographer

(and has longitudinal corridor
looking toward south end (and
the fire wall that has separated
the auditorium from stairs since
1975). Former library (now mid
way of left, has original surrounds,
as do all classroom doors in the bldg.)



The Mc Guffey Hand Center
(Formerly the Wm. H. McGuffey Primary School)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Richard Thrift
Dec. 2006

(31)

Now in the possession of the photographer

(The elevator corridor in the
2nd floor, off longitudinal corridor,
was made for two elevators,
same as on 1st floor, North side
of bldg.)

CASE STUDY: MCGUFFEY ART CENTER CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

This successful project was created from the traditional model of government financing for the adaptive reuse of a historic building as an arts facility. Once a downtown schoolhouse, the McGuffey has become this university town's hip place for artists, art exhibitions, and the community's monthly gallery strolls. There's always a waiting list of artists wanting to rent space in the McGuffey, with motivation provided by many reasons including the building's lower-than-average studio rents in Charlottesville's heated real estate market. The center's 800 sq. ft. studios, which formerly were classrooms, rent for \$105 to \$125 monthly, while half studios rent for \$55 to \$65 monthly.

Set on a landscaped hillside adjacent to the busy, pedestrian mall, the converted elementary school that's now the center of Charlottesville's fast-growing arts scene is home to 40 artists working in 23 studios carved from the shells of old classrooms. Beautiful from the outside and in the hallways of its two floors of public gallery spaces, the actual working quarters of McGuffey's artists are no-nonsense studios where the emphasis is on art creators' nuts-and-bolts.

Owned by the city of Charlottesville and leased to the McGuffey Art Association (a for-profit corporation) for slightly more than \$20,000 annually (enough to cover the building's utilities and maintenance), the building's artists serve as members of the association's board. Through this entity they employ part-time staff for the center's maintenance and administrative functions. Artists pay rent to their association.

Page 5

The city renovated the McGuffey and opened it as an arts center in 1975. To participate as an artist, McGuffey tenants agree to keep their studios open to the public for 17.5 hours weekly (a restriction which eliminates out-of-area artists as tenants), and most artists offer public art classes for modest enrollment fees. Rebuilt by the city in 1981 following a severe fire, the structure was again renovated in 1996. According to Fay Clark, the McGuffey's administrator from its 1975 inception until 1998, the structure was always maintained to city building code levels. "The first time the interiors were renovated was 1975, and the artists did that themselves," she said. "But after the fire in 1981 a contractor came in and repartitioned the entire building while the artists worked on the interior's damaged areas."

Over the years, the McGuffey's artists periodically raised money to finance building improvements, while "... the city has always been there to work hand-in-hand with us through our difficult financial times," she said. McGuffey was perceived as something of a local treasure, according to Clark. So much of a treasure, she said, that the McGuffey's artists worked tirelessly at building strong ties to community education and citizen groups as a strategy for embedding the McGuffey's position as a mainstay of downtown Charlottesville. "We always knew," said Clark, "that the best thing we had to offer the public was use of our building as a magnet for attracting people into downtown, so we worked across the board to run it that way."

One of the McGuffey's saving graces came about in an unusual way, she said. "We were turned down for tax exempt status back when we first opened, which became an advantage. We never had to hire a grants writer. Instead it was the artists themselves who became responsible for the McGuffey's success or failure. Once we tried out life as a for-profit corporation, we never looked back. We pay all our state, federal and local taxes, including our property tax, and we operate on a zero-balance budget."

WHAT WE WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY?

"I'd be very careful at the outset about deciding upon whatever sort of rules get written about how the artists function or about the project's direction. You cannot manage a large cooperative of creative individuals if everything becomes sacred territory."

CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINING PROJECT'S SUCCESS

"Maintaining the need to allow a balance of all the artists' visions to be given equal consideration in the project's management and dealing with conflicting views. Also, maintaining a centralized position of responsibility and power in the form of some entity that the city and media can continuously refer to when they have questions that need answering."

ADVICE TO OTHERS

"First, find an angel willing to do for you what the City of Charlottesville did for us in terms of providing a building for free. Second, don't take for granted that your project can only succeed as a 501(C)3, because our success is closely linked to our status as a self-sustaining organization. Third, understand that if you want to fulfill the role of being a community arts center and an artists' cooperative that you have to set up your governing body in a way that invests authority in the artists themselves and not to a central management group."

HAS THE PROJECT BEEN SUCCESS

"Yes, in terms of what the community and city government expected of us we have more than fulfilled all the expectations placed on the project and have become the arts focal point for anyone enjoying downtown Charlottesville."

Responses by Faye Clark, Administrator, McGuffey School, Charlottesville, Virginia



Surrounding trees and the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains are perfect companions for the McGuffey Art Center.

Backstage at the McGuffey

High above the rooftops in Charlottesville, Virginia, is the McGuffey Art Center—a renovated school with a romantic feel and an incredible view. In the late afternoon light the Blue Ridge Mountains shimmer to the west, and in the morning, the sun's rays filtering through a neighborhood park make leafy patterns on the wall.

All in all, it's a perfect setting for the activities that go on here, a marvelously comfortable "home" for Charlottesville's craftsmen, painters, sculptors, dancers, and photographers.

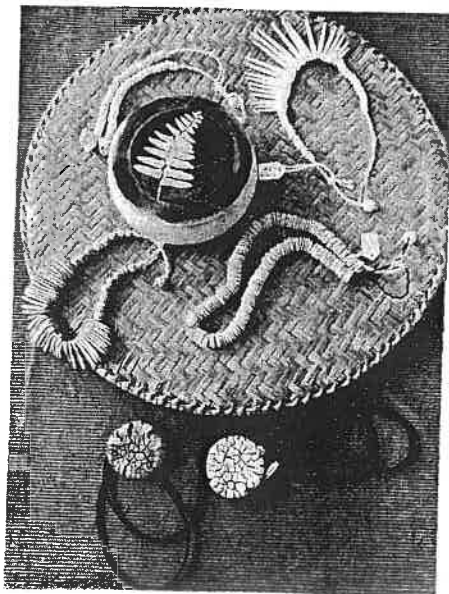
Just two years old this fall, McGuffey is a demonstration center for the arts, a public gallery with a non-elitist tone. People feel comfortable bringing friends in or just walking the halls themselves, talking to the artists and watching them work. School groups tour regularly, full of questions and commotion, and no one looks twice, all part of McGuffey's community relations program.

McGuffey is run for the public, but also for the artists, too.

"Most of all, we offer working space for serious artists, people who are doing some very subtle things," Vice President Terry van Groll comments. "Here

the emphasis is not on selling but on doing and on teaching."

There is a definite lack of commercial pressure; McGuffey's space rents for less than \$1 per square foot, well



Liza Hintze's and Linda van der Linde's stone jewels are beginning to be retailed across the country.

below that of similar community art centers.

"Lots of artists can afford our rates, even the ones who are struggling to survive. The city's generous support allows us to promote some very innovative work—even if it is currently unsalable—the kind that just might be the wave of the future," Mrs. van Groll says.

The McGuffey Art Center was developed through the effort of many people, not the least of which were the members of the city council.

"In deeding it to us, I guess the council figured that the worst thing that could happen was that we would fold, and that wasn't any worse than leaving the building sitting there empty," says Mrs. van Groll.

"The initial study committee, in fact, chose to give the building to us because we showed such enthusiasm and were willing to take it as it was and do the repairs ourselves. Before we applied for it, we did a little study to prove that we could fill the building with people who really wanted to be there," she says.

The city paid for the renovations, including new walls to enclose the halls and improvements to bring it up to the



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Having measured the wool she's spun, Genevieve Clark rolls it into balls.

fire code. The artists themselves completed all the other repairs on a working capital of \$300—which they themselves donated.

Today the center is run entirely by artists in a cooperative manner, where each regularly contributes time and energy towards its perpetuation.

"At first people said that it wouldn't work, that artists couldn't manage themselves, let alone a complex enterprise like this," Mrs. van Groll says. "But the shows are on schedule, the educational projects flourishing, and the

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Inspired by African design, Mary Ann Ryan paints batik.



Christina Buck stitches a quilt.

public response continues to be overwhelming. With more than 50 artists, our studios are so full I really don't know where we'd put anyone else."

The McGuffey Art Center is at 201 Second Street NW. in Charlottesville. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

For further information, write the McGuffey Art Center, 201 Second Street NW., Charlottesville, Virginia 22901.



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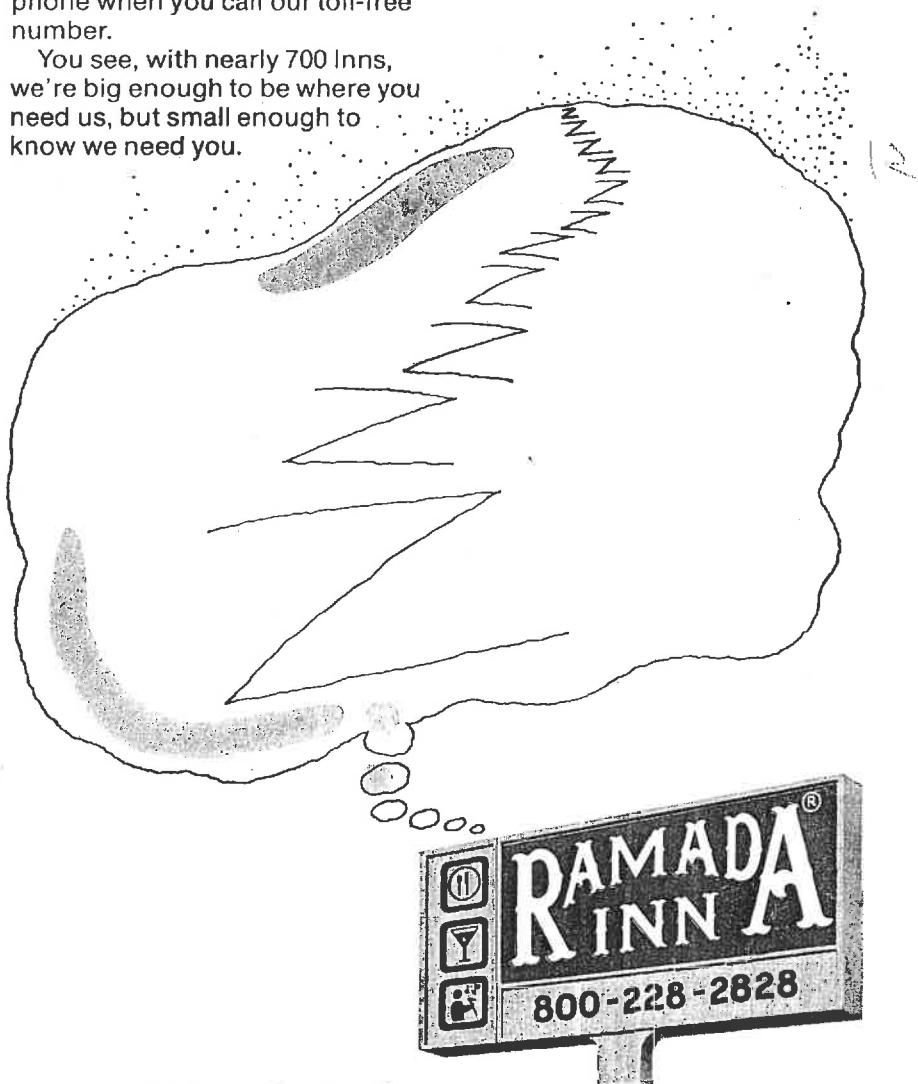
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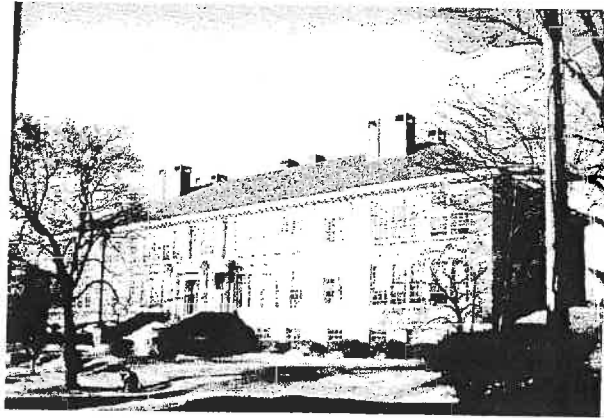
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These search terms have been highlighted: mcguffey art center

MCGUFFEY ART CENTER

Charlottesville, Virginia



The McGuffey Art Center is a City owned property that leases space to working artists. The building is essentially a large gallery for ongoing exhibits by the tenants and shows by local artists. This 1920's vintage, former elementary school building was badly in need of exterior painting, masonry repairs, replacement of concrete walkways, and total replacement of the stone entry stairs. Lee CM provided Owner Representative services to assist the City in the successful completion of this work.

Lee CM worked closely with the City and the tenants to coordinate the various phased construction activities so that impacts to the ongoing studio activities were minimized. During the course of replacing and re-building the stone entrance stairs, large portions of the masonry check wall structure were found to be significantly deteriorated. Lee CM worked out an alternate detail with the City and the Contractor that provided a safe, timely and affordable solution. As part of Owner Representative services, Lee CM provided ongoing site inspections and reporting; reviewed Contractor submittals and payment requests; maintained the City's project file; and assisted the City in rectifying punchlist issues and project closeout documentation.

Project Highlights:

Project Team

- Owner: City of Charlottesville
- Owner's Representative: R.E. Lee Construction Management
- Architect: Smith Garrett Architects
- Contractor: Paradise Construction Company

Project Delivery System

- Conventional design-bid-build. Lee CM provided Owner's Representative services, including contract administration and construction management, from bidding phase through project closeout.

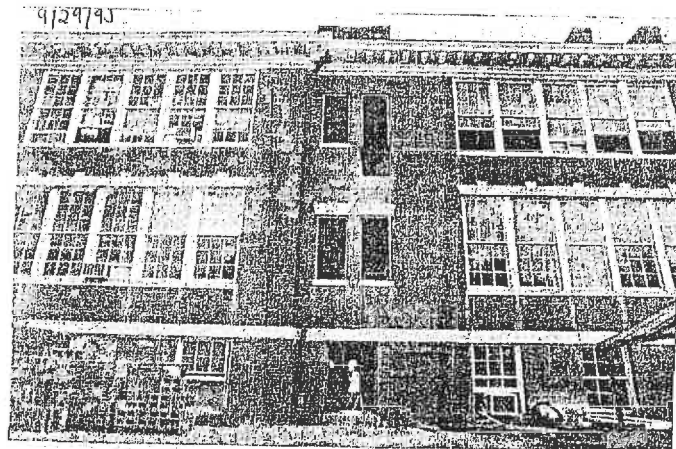
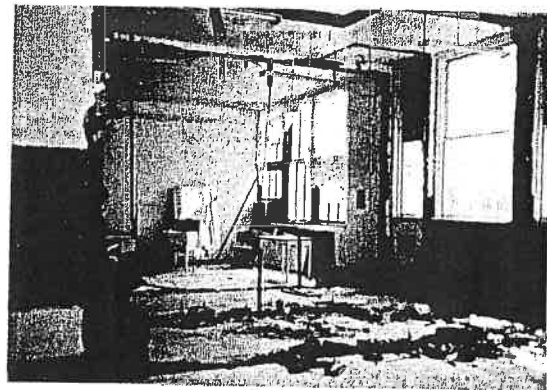
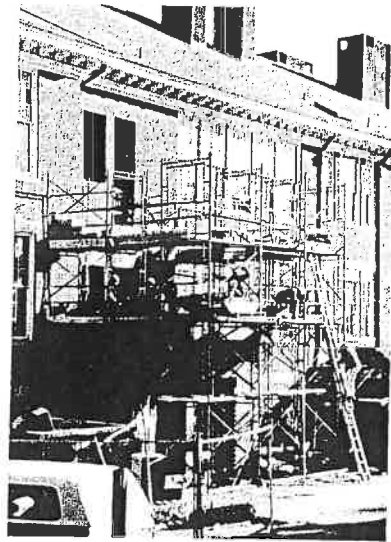
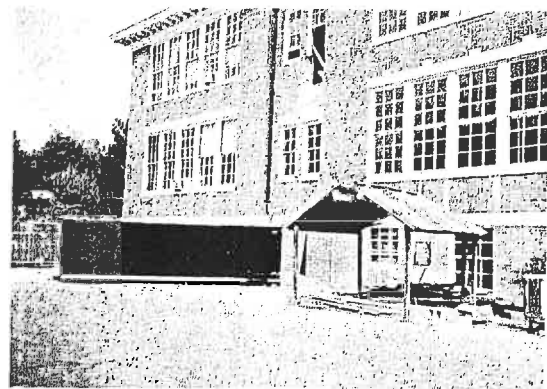
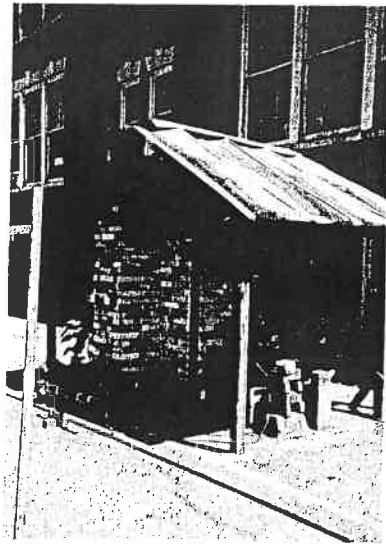
Total Construction Value: \$303,000

Construction Type

Improvements to the building exterior, including:

- Abatement of lead paint and re-painting of all exterior wood windows and trim
- Remove and replace stairs at primary building entrances with limestone treads.
- Repair and repoint brick check walls and chimneys.
- Remove and replace concrete plaza, check walls, and entrance walks.

McGUFFEY'S RENOVATION IN PROGRESS
1995



The Daily Progress / Staff/Archie Green
WORK IN PROGRESS: Mike Canady takes a break from laying block at the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville. Canady and others at Abrahamse & Co. worked Thursday on bringing the building up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The repairs are to be completed by Dec. 1.



History of McGuffey School, 1915-1936

By James G. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, in co-operation with Miss Carrie C. Burnley, Principal, and the teachers at this building.

HOPING AND PLANNING

The name of this building immediately arouses our interest. Something about the life and public services of Dr. Wm. H. McGuffey is told in the letters and other documents quoted herewith. My earliest recollection of anything connected with my own school life is a McGuffey Speller from which I learned my letters. Later the Readers aroused my enthusiasm in such a way that I have never ceased to love the look and enjoy the content of these books. When plans were being matured for the construction of a primary school, three things gave me much concern: the site upon which this structure was to be erected; the plans for the building; and the name that it should bear.

Years before the Patterson site was selected, I habitually went to the northeast corner room on the third floor of the annex to Midway school and would gaze out of a window at the top of the hill and visualize the building that finally was erected on the Patterson site. These were years of hoping and struggling. Many sites were considered but I never lost my desire to have my first choice selected.

During these years, I studied the plans of between four and five hundred school buildings in different parts of the country through actual visits and through plans published in the School Board Journal and in all the books on school architecture that I could lay my hands upon. I tabulated the best features in all of these buildings and stood for the selection of a firm of architects that would be able to put my ideal into concrete shape. The school board finally selected the firm of architects recommended by me, Ferguson, Calow and Taylor, of Norfolk, Virginia. R. E. Lee Taylor of this firm, actively worked with me until the plans were completed and ready for the opening of bids, at which time Charles J. Calow of the above firm took personal charge of the execution of the commission and with him, a man of understanding heart, the construction of McGuffey School was carried through. Later Mr. Calow had charge of the planning and the construction of Venable School, the Venable athletic field house, and the George Rogers Clark School. In this connection, it is entirely appropriate that I should pay a well-merited trib-

ute to this skillful architect who for twenty-one years has been my co-worker in developing a group of elementary school buildings.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PLANT

A description of this proposed new school building was prepared by me at the request of the Daily Progress of Charlottesville, which paper under date of July 14, 1915, published the following article:

"PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

Many Important Details Are Outlined

By Superintendent Johnson

In Article Given Out at Request of Progress Reporter — Location Gives Ample Playgrounds for Eight Hundred Pupils — Structure to Meet All Requirements of State Law — Class Rooms Are Model Workshops for Pupils.

The Daily Progress, realizing the desire of the general public to know something about the details of the proposed new school building, requested a reporter to get Superintendent James G. Johnson to give out a description of the plant as planned by the School Board.

In compliance with this invitation the following article was prepared:

The Location.

The site, selected by the School Board after most thorough and careful consideration of numerous locations during a period of almost three years, has the following points of merit: ample size, approximately three and one-fifth acres, giving an abundance of play space for eight hundred children; splendid elevation assuring a free circulation of air and perfect drainage; accessibility to the main thoroughfares yet in a quiet zone free from the disturbances caused by an ever increasing tide of traffic.

The Proposed Building.

The building as designed is an imposing structure covering a ground area sixty-six and one-third by one

hundred and seventy-one feet having two stories and basement planned to care for seven hundred and twenty to eight hundred children in sixteen class rooms. The most rigid requirements governing the construction of sanitary school buildings have been complied with both in the general and the detailed scheme.

The Basement.

This section of the building has received as much attention as the class rooms themselves; the pitch is ten feet in the clear; the floor space is utilized for two toilet rooms twenty-four by forty-four feet, one for boys and one for girls, each room being thoroughly lighted and ventilated, all fixtures being of the most approved automatic type; two play rooms twenty-four by seventy-six feet, one for boys and one for girls; a coal room twenty-four by twenty-four feet; a boiler room twenty-four by twenty-eight feet; a janitor's room twenty-four by twenty-four feet; fresh air, fan room and warm air chamber for the indirect radiator coils. All floors except in the coal room are cement. The floor in this room was also made of cement before the construction was finished. The lighting of the entire basement is even better than that of the usual class room in Virginia school buildings.

A special feature of this part of the plant is that the toilet and play rooms for the different sexes are entirely segregated from each other by the fresh air, fan, warm air, coal, janitor, and boiler rooms. Absolute privacy for each sex is guaranteed.

The boilers are enclosed in a chamber that is entirely fireproof reducing the danger from fire to a minimum.

First and Second Floors.

There are sixteen class rooms in all, eight on each floor.

On the first floor there are four class rooms each twenty-five by thirty-two feet and also four class rooms each twenty-four by thirty-two feet; all rooms have a pitch of thirteen feet; the light area equals twenty-five per centum of the floor space for each room. The class rooms on the second floor are similar in all respects to those on the first floor.

On the first floor there is an office; on the second floor there is a rest

room for teachers and a library room which can be used in connection with the special individual work that is proving such a great factor in the progress of the pupils at Midway. Every school building should have a special instruction room; this necessity has been anticipated.

Corridors and Entrances.

The main or longitudinal corridors run north and south; they are twelve feet wide in basement and on first and second floors with no protruding obstructions of any kind. The entrance for the boys is at the northern end of the building. The transverse or front entrance corridor is fourteen feet wide and faces the east. Each entrance is quite attractive; the one at the front being especially striking.

The stairways at either end of the longitudinal corridors are designed for ease and comfort being five and a half feet wide, having six-inch risers and thirteen-inch treads, the runs being relieved by a spacious landing half way between each story.

All doors to the entrances and also to the class rooms open outward.

Heating and Ventilating.

The class rooms are cared for by direct radiators to overcome losses through exposed walls and windows, while an abundant supply of fresh, warm air is forced into each room by a motor driven fan from the warm air chamber located in the basement and supplied with fresh air taken through shafts from a point over the front entrance insuring freedom from pollution of any kind. The foul air is removed from each room through ventilating flues that lead out to the open air above the roof.

All other rooms including the corridors are supplied with direct radiation.

Details of the Class Rooms.

Each class room is a typical workshop for forty-five children. The lighting scheme is unilateral, that is from one side of the room only. Half the rooms in the building have eastern and half western exposures. This plan of orientation assures an abundance of sunlight in each room at sometime during the day, a thing that is imperative for proper sanitation. The desks will be located in such a way that the light will come from the left of the pupils in all rooms. All windows are to be equipped with adjustable transparent shades that will shut out the dazzling sunlight during that portion of the school day when the sun beams into the rooms with full force. The general scheme of the building is such that it will not

be necessary to use the window shades but for a small portion of the school day. Each class room has its own cloak room, independently lighted, properly heated and ventilated, and equipped with hat and coat hooks, umbrella stand, drinking fountain and wash basin; there are two open entrances to each cloak room direct from the class room but no entrance from the corridor; this puts the supervision of these rooms under the eye of the teacher, thus preventing the loss of hats, cloaks, wraps, and other things by pilfering.

The blackboards will be natural slate, three and a half feet wide, placed at heights to suit the children in each grade; the chalk troughs will have wire screens that let the dust fall through into the trough thus keeping the erasers from mopping the dust back on the boards.

The floors will be maple laid over a sub-floor covered with deadening quilt.

There will be no wood wainscoting. The walls will be tinted in neutral tones to suit the source from which the light comes.

Each room is to be seated with forty-five single desks.

An effort has been made to handle every detail to the best advantage for each individual class room and for the plant as a whole. Harmony, simplicity, utility, beauty have been the ends sought by architects and school officials.

A Final Word About the Proposed Plant.

It is no easy thing to go through weeks, months, and years of actual searching for suitable school sites, to determine in the light of all the facts what is best for the general good of the school system in buildings and equipment, to meet and discuss plans real and imaginary, to spend long hours in meetings grappling with the perplexing problems that confront the School Board members who have the unremunerated burden of patriotic service thrust upon them. The City School Board has gone through this process with unselfish devotion to the public welfare. The City Council has approved their conclusions and authorized a bond issue to carry into effect well matured plans evolved through first hand experience in dealing with the most important factor in the civic life of the community.

In behalf of the little children of the present and the future, the voters are asked to ratify a bond issue to construct the building outlined above. The School Board and the Council have done all that they can do. The responsibility now rests with the vot-

ers. Will they face this responsibility with patriotic courage?"

Yes, they did by a very substantial vote, a majority of more than two to one at an election held July 20, 1915.

School plants are no exception to the general rule that almost all buildings used for any purpose must be changed and modified from time to time to meet new conditions and demands. The original layout of McCuffey School was such that it has been easy to make readjustments as the years have gone by and this structure is still a modern home for the children who are so fortunate as to attend school here.

NAMING THE BUILDING

Early in my life, I learned the useful lesson of seeking counsel from individuals qualified to give me guidance and assistance. In the choice of a name for this building, I consulted in person or by letter a group of outstanding men whose letters to me may tell their own story:

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
Department of Engineering
Charlottesville

Office of the Dean
August 9, 1915.

Dr. J. G. Johnson,
Charlottesville, Va.

Dear Dr. Johnson:

You told me of the plan of naming the new Charlottesville public school for W. H. McCuffey, the former Professor of Moral Philosophy of this University, and have asked for my opinion as to the suitability of this name. It seems to me eminently appropriate. Dr. McCuffey was a northern man who came to Virginia and threw in his lot heartily with the southern people. At the outbreak of the Civil War, it would have been natural for him to return to his own section of the United States; instead of doing this, he remained in the South and shared the calamities of his fellow-citizens. From the beginning of his work in this University, he was deeply interested in public education. In conjunction with Dr. Minor, he made a canvass of Virginia with the view of advancing schools for the poorer classes. He compiled what doubtless has been the best known and most useful series of readers and spellers for primary and grammar-school work ever produced. So excellent were the books that at the close of the Civil War, he was invited by a Cincinnati publishing firm to bring out a revised edition of the whole series and received liberal compensation for his work. As a teacher in the University, he was one of the greatest men who ever worked

here. His old students today will bear cordial and grateful testimony to the value of his instructions. His lectures were stimulating and his students felt the constant reaction of an acute mind which directed them into new regions of thought and activity.

Your plan of naming the new school building in his honor seems to me a well-deserved testimonial to the life and labors of a man who did so much both for this University and for the cause of general education in the State.

Yours very truly,

Retiring School Head Made Superintendent Emeritus

At the monthly meeting of the City School Board last night, Dr. James G. Johnson, who is retiring as head of the city public schools on June 30 after 36 years' service,

was elected Superintendent Emeritus "with the sincere hope that he may be spared many years of activity."

The honor is bestowed, the resolution read, "in recognition, in small part, of the long and effective service of Dr. James G. Johnson as superintendent of the schools of this city, during which the school system of the city has been developed from a very small and meager offering to the great and extended educational opportunity it now affords."

In this new office, the resolution continued, "Dr. Johnson's connection with the school system will continue, so that the Board may avail itself, in meeting the problems of the difficult, restless post-war period, of Dr. Johnson's wisdom and wide experience in human affairs."

The resolution authorized the chairman of the board to appoint a committee to prepare and present to the board a resolution properly commemorative of the service of Dr. Johnson to the city.

The board also adopted a resolution expressing regret at the resignation of W. H. Snyder, member from the Third Ward, after 12 years of continuous service.

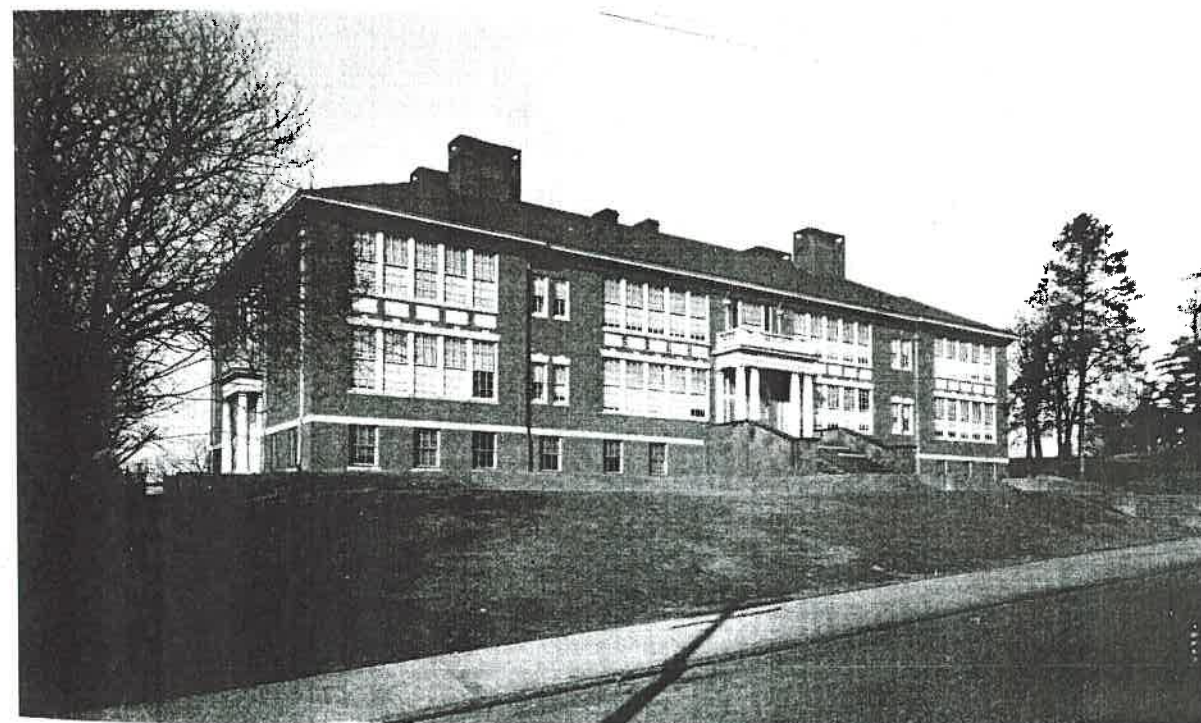
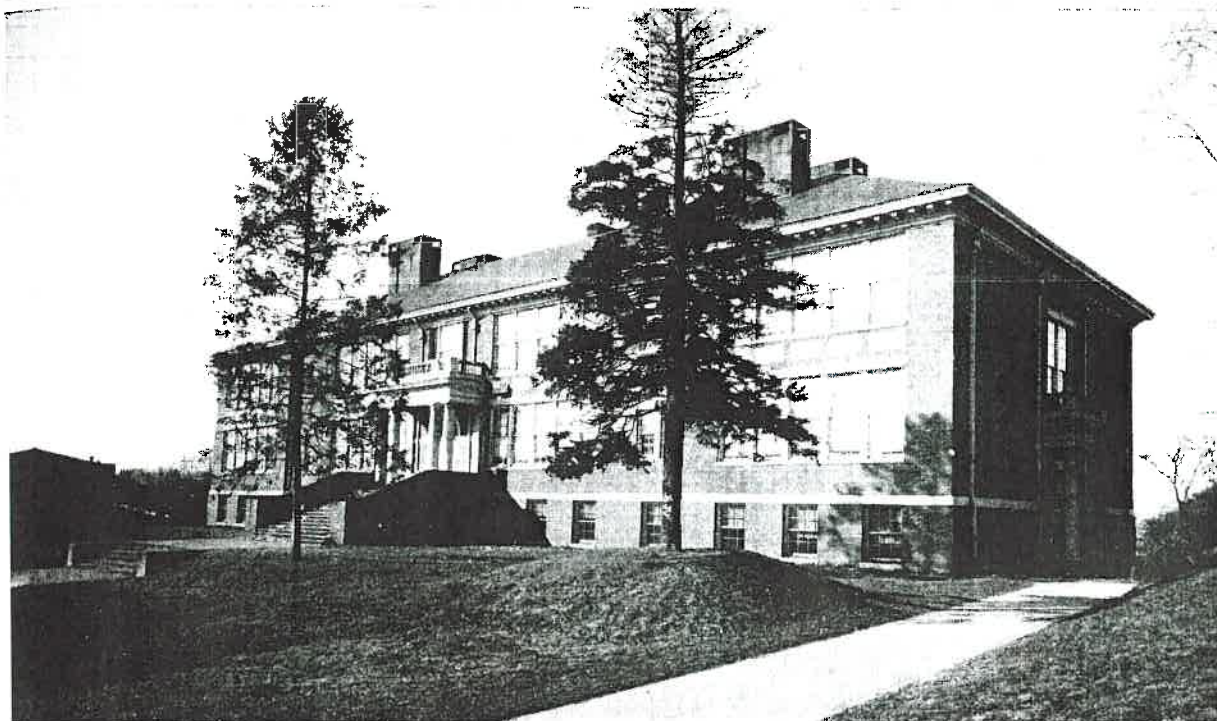
Mr. Snyder and family are leaving the city next week to occupy their new home, "Memory Lane Farm," on the Nine-Mile Circle, which was recently purchased from Dr. Joseph Krinsky.



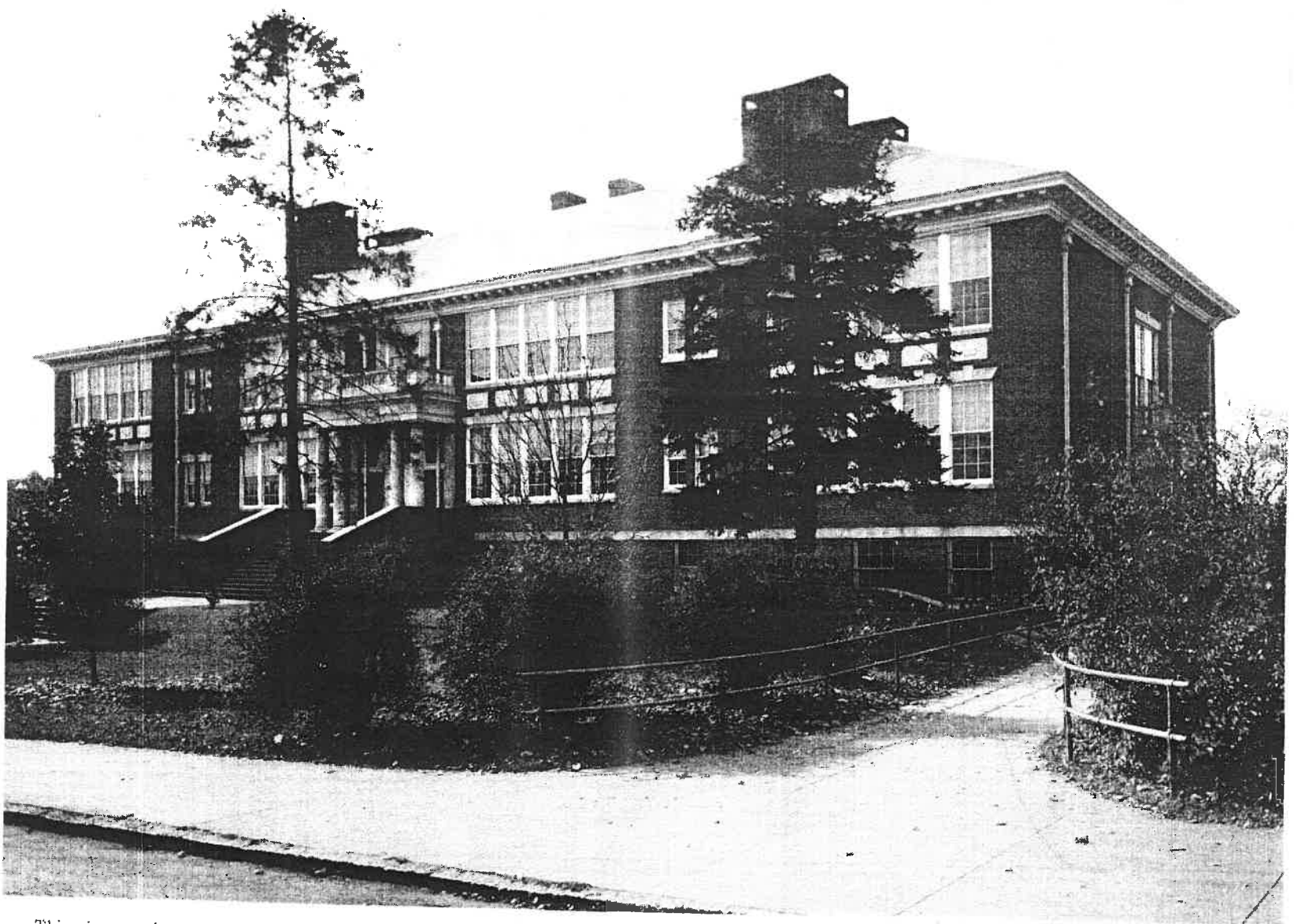
DR. JAMES G. JOHNSON

A letter from Miss Nan Crow, head of the City Recreation Department, asking for permission to use the playgrounds at Venable and Jefferson schools during the summer months, was referred to the committee on grounds and buildings, with power to act.

In the absence of the chairman, Dr. A. G. A. Balz, last night's meeting was presided over by Vice-Chairman Randolph H. Perry. Other members present were: Hope W. Gleason, Horman W. Walsh, A. L. Hench, W. H. Snyder, W. Towles Dettor, J. Fred Harlan, and Lee Hawkins.



The two pictures on this page show the way McGuffey School Building looked in 1926.



This picture taken at one o'clock, on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 11, 1936, gives a view of McGuffey School Building from the northeast.

MA 123

PA-1012

THE MCGUFFEY READER

Edition 1936

VOLUME VI

MCGUFFEY SCHOOL, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., OCTOBER 30, 1936

NUMBER 2

MISS CARRIE C. BURNLEY

Miss Burnley was educated in the rural schools of Virginia and at the Park Street School, conducted by the Misses Howard in Charlottesville. These two ladies were sisters-in-law of Dr. William H. McGuffey for whom McGuffey School is named.

After teaching six years in a one room school in Albemarle County she went to Harrisonburg, Virginia, where she taught for three years in the intermediate grades. This position was tendered her by Professor Charles G. Maphis, who was then principal of the Harrisonburg Schools. In 1894 she took charge of a seventh grade at Midway School Building. In due time she was promoted to the eighth grade and also made assistant principal of the grammar grade department. In 1910 she was promoted to the high school where she continued teaching until she assumed her duties as principal of McGuffey School in 1916, thus becoming the first woman principal in the City of Charlottesville.

James G. Johnson.



Miss Carrie C. Burnley.

On September 6, 1916, she took office as the first principal of McGuffey School and has served continuously to date.

FIRST FACULTY OF MCGUFFEY SCHOOL

Session 1916-1917

Miss Carrie C. Burnley, Principal
Miss Ida Carter, Substitute and Office Helper

- Room 11 Miss M. Rumbough 1A
- Room 12 Miss R. B. Burnley 1A
- Room 13 Miss H. Wimbish 1A
- Room 14 Miss F. Battle 1B & 2A
- Room 15 Miss E. Greaves 1B
- Room 16 Miss M. Ballard 1B & 2A
- Room 17 Miss H. Housman 2A
- Room 18 Miss C. Perrow 3A
- Room 21 Miss A. L. McKnight 3B
- Room 22 Miss R. L. Maupin 3B & 4A
- Room 23 Miss M. Morris 3B & 4A
- Room 24 Miss J. Werner 3B & 4A
- Room 25 Miss V. Pugh 2B & 3A
- Room 26 Miss M. S. Meserole 2B & 3A
- Room 27 Miss M. K. Thacker 2B & 3A
- Room 28 Miss L. Woodson 2B & 3A

867 pupils attended McGuffey School during the first term. Many of them are now leading citizens of Charlottesville.

ORGANIZATION OF MCGUFFEY SCHOOL

Session 1936-1937

DR. JAMES G. JOHNSON, *Superintendent*

MISS CARRIE C. BURNLEY, *Principal*

MISS CATHARINE YOUNG, *Secretary*

MISS M. K. THACKER, *Office Teacher*

Mrs. L. A. BRUNTON, *Stenographer*

	Room	Grade		Room	Grade
Mrs. HELEN BURNLEY	12	1A-1B	MISS GARNETTE SHUFFLEBARGER	22	5A
MISS NANCY WADDELL	11	1A-2B	MISS SUSIE MOORE	21	5A-5B
Mrs. MARY G. FITZHUGH	13	2A	MISS JANIE WERNER	24	5B
Mrs. EVELYN BURRUSS	14	3A	Mrs. LILLIE WOODSON	23	6A
MISS JULIA JONES	15	2B-3A	MISS MADGE TREVILLIAN	25	6A-7A
Mrs. MARGARET BURNET	16	3B	MISS ANNIE BARKSDALE	26	6B
MISS ELIZABETH CRENSHAW	18	4A	Mrs. ISABELLE SINCLAIR	27	7A
MISS ANABEL McEWEN	17	4B	MISS IDA BOSTON	28	7B

MISS M. VIRGINIA PATTERSON'S SCHOOL

A brief explanation is necessary in order that the present generation may understand that every school room in 1871 was numbered and each school room was called a school whether it was a one room school located far from any other school or a room in a graded school of from two to any number of rooms.

The graded school located on Garrett Street (to be described later in this supplement) was composed of three rooms, designated as School Number 1, School Number 2 and School Number 3. A one room school taught by Miss M. Virginia Patterson was known as School Number 4. To be absolutely sure of the exact location of this particular school, I sent the following telegram to a pupil who entered this school in September, 1871:

"October 5, 1936

Mr. Paul G. McIntire,
227 East 57th Street,
New York City.

Where was the building located in which Virginia Patterson taught you in 1871?

James G. Johnson,
Superintendent of Schools."

The immediate reply was:

"October 5, 1936

James G. Johnson,
Supt. City Schools,

Small building about twenty-five feet northwest Patterson home.

Paul G. McIntire."

On Monday, August 23, 1915, I had pictures made of the Patterson home. These pictures, taken from the south side and from the west side of the mansion house, show a small brick building located about twenty-five feet northwest of the Patterson home in the exact location given by Mr. McIntire. I have a very distinct picture of this building in my mind as it looked from the Jefferson Street side and there seems to be no doubt that it was the building where Mr. McIntire attended school.

On Patterson Estate

This small brick building was a part of the Patterson estate purchased by the School Board of the City of Charlottesville on the 3rd day of July, 1915, as the site upon which to erect McGuffey School building. All of the brick buildings on this site, five or six in number, were torn down, the bricks were carefully cleaned and were put in the inside basement walls of McGuffey School when it was constructed. So the material in that one room school is a part of the present McGuffey structure, in whose sixteen rooms are housed today about 650 children. Every pupil, past, present and to be, of McGuffey School should take pride in the fact that McGuffey School is the material and spiritual successor of Miss M. Virginia Patterson's school.

Miss Virginia Patterson opened her school on Monday, September 4, 1871, and it continued for a session of ten months, closing on the third Friday in June, 1872. The names of the pupils enrolled for September, 1871, with their ages follow:

Richard Anderson 12, Frank Bruffey 7, Willie Fowler 8, Frank Hancock 8, Henry Hase 12, Eddie Huffman 10, Goodloe McIntire 11, Willie McIntire 8, James Morgan 10, John Patterson 10, Woodson Roberts 12, Charles Roads 14, James Wells 8, Thomas Wills 9, Arthur Whitehurst 7, Walter Zimmerman 11, Kate Bruffey 10, Bettie Bruffey 9, Martha Cowles 13, Ella Dennis 11, Emma Dennis 9, Cora Hartnagle 9, Blanche Hartnagle 7, Lulie Jackson 13, Nellie Jackson 12, Rosa Hase 9, Maggie Morgan 13, Grace Morgan 6, Birdie Morgan 6, Jane Page 11, Luella Whitehurst 14, Lilla Whitehurst 9, and Hattie Wells 6.

This roll for September was increased by a few other pupils who entered later in the session. Miss Patterson taught School Number 4 for the sessions 1872-1873, and 1873-1874. Whether this school continued any longer than the session 1873-1874, I do not know. The register that I have before me, from which the above data are taken, closes with the session of 1873-1874.

Textbooks Used

The names of the textbooks used were as follows:

"Reading, Holmes'; Spelling, Holmes'; Writing, Payson, Dunton; Mental Arithmetic, Venable's; Written Arithmetic, Venable's; Geography, Maury's; English Grammar, Bullion's; History, Holmes'".

These brief entries in reference to the textbooks used do not, of course, give a detailed list of the books from which selections were made to be purchased by the children. Mr. J. G. Blount, Jr., assistant auditor in the Department of Public Instruction in Richmond, examined the minutes of the Board of Education for the period February through October, 1871, and made for me a transcript of the list of books adopted for use in the public free schools of Virginia in 1871. From these excerpts we learn that Holmes' series of readers contained a primer and first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth readers; the arithmetics by Venable were First Lessons in Numbers, Primary Arithmetic, Intermediate Arithmetic, Mental Arithmetic and Practical Arithmetic; the language series by Bullions included School Grammar, Practical Grammar, and Exercises in Analysis, Parsing and Composition; the geographies by Maury were First Lessons in Geography, World We Live In, Manual of Geography, and Physical Geography; with the exception of the copy books, the other texts listed in Miss Patterson's register were single volumes.

As I write, I have at hand a copy of most of the textbooks used in this school in the original editions of that period. At some time, the children and the teachers of McGuffey School will have an exhibit of these books of long ago arranged in such a way that they may be seen in contrast with those in use today.

The register kept by Miss Virginia Patterson was given by one of her nieces on November 8, 1935, to Miss Carrie C. Burnley, principal of McGuffey School, and was immediately turned over by her to become a part of the archives of McGuffey School. This treasured volume is kept in a fire-proof safe and is highly prized by superintendent, principal, teachers and the happy family of McGuffey pupils.

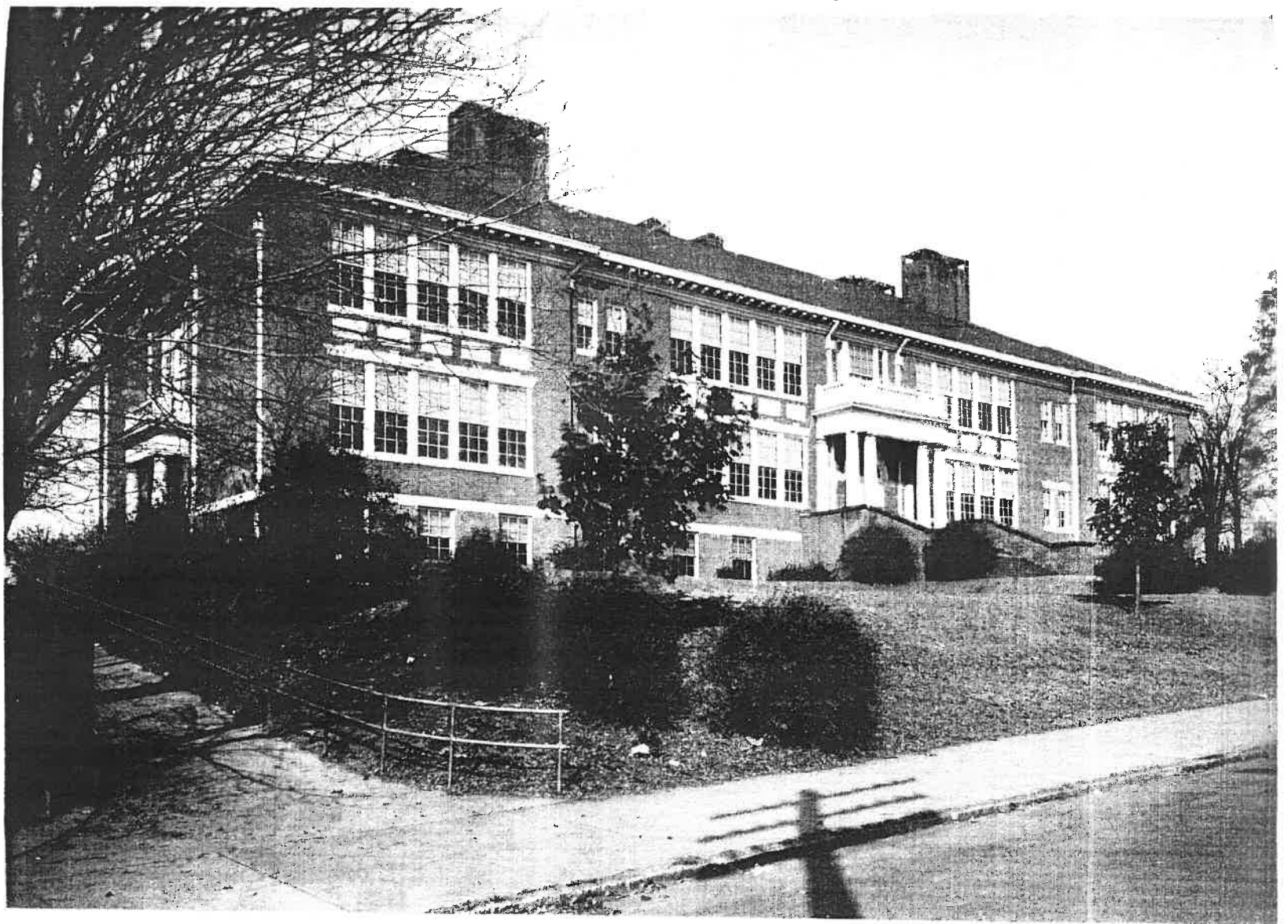
The pictures of the Patterson home taken between ten and eleven o'clock on the morning of August 23, 1915, should tell their own story.

future site of the McGuffey School, finished Aug 1916

This picture was taken from the west side of the Patterson mansion house between ten and eleven o'clock on Monday morning, August 23, 1915.



The individuals, reading right to left, are: W. C. Scott, James G. Johnson, Dr. J. E. Early, A. Russow, J. E. Harrison, R. F. Webb, W. H. Marshall, and Charles E. Chisholm; the others I have forgotten. In both pictures Supt. James G. Johnson is holding the plans and specifications of McGuffey School Building for the construction of which dirt was broken at ten o'clock the next day, August 24, 1915.



This picture taken at half past ten o'clock, on Tuesday morning, November 10, 1936, shows a view of McGuffey School Building from the southeast.

future site of McGuffey School, completed May 1916

This picture was taken from the south side of the Patterson mansion house between ten and eleven o'clock on Monday morning, August 23, 1915.



The individuals, reading left to right, are: R. F. Webb, a high school teacher; Supt. James G. Johnson; J. E. Harrison of the Charlottesville Lumber Co., contractors; Charles E. Chisholm, a foreman for excavation, etc.; Robert E. Carter, in charge of construction; Dr. J. E. Early, W. C. Scott, and A. Russow, school board building committee. In 1871 school No. 4 was taught in small brick building at left.

What McGuffey Does for Her Pupils

By LILLIE PAYNE WOODSON

Teacher of History and Civics, Sixth and Seventh Grades

According to John Dewey: "When the school introduces and trains each child of society into membership within its own little community, saturating him with a spirit of service and providing him with the instruments of self-direction, we shall have the deepest and best guarantee of a larger society which is worthy, lovely and harmonious."

For the past twenty years McGuffey has sought to develop in the pupils who pass through her halls a realization that the responsibility for a worth while social order rests upon the individual and that as each shoulders his responsibility for today, so will he be prepared for the responsibilities of citizenship tomorrow. In keeping with the trends in education McGuffey has foreseen that the most promising opportunity for the realization of the ideal is in extra curricular activities. Here have been developed qualities of real citizenship, an appreciation of leadership, recreational hobbies, and an appreciation of art, music, literature, ideals of home life and an intelligent interest on the part of the community in the school, its needs and possibilities.

In social service work McGuffey offers its pupils opportunities rarely excelled. The Junior Red Cross is organized each year about the first of November. On Armistice Day of this year over three hundred members were enrolled. The proceeds are divided equally between the children's work in the Charlottesville and Albemarle Chapters and the national organization in Washington. Enrollment is voluntary.

Through classes and organizations of the school, toys and baskets of groceries are given to needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Through the lunch counter, established many years ago, needy children are supplied with free lunches, funds are raised for athletics, the McGuffey Reader, library and the rental of motion picture films. Clerks at the counter receive valuable lessons in courteous service and would-be purchasers learn the life lesson, "First come, first served."

As the business of the school is to train pupils to perform successfully their duties and responsibilities as citizens, club work as a phase of the school program of training for school

and community responsibilities is receiving national recognition. McGuffey boasts a long list of clubs whose activities in many instances are indicated by their names. These are The Happy Club, John Powell Music Club, James G. Johnson Club, Florence Nightingale Club, The James Morris Page Citizenship Club, The Safety Club, The Good Citizenship Club, News Flash and Literary Clubs.

In surveying the long list of clubs one questions the aims which guide their activities. A few of these are: an increase in the sense of responsibility towards others, an opportunity to engage in some worth while work for others, to promote the welfare and care for the interests of pupils, to foster loyalty and enthusiasm for the best interests of the school, to promote a friendly spirit of comradeship and to inspire pupils with high ideals of manhood and womanhood. To attain this ideal they are encouraged to keep their bodies beautiful by cleanliness and right living, their minds pure by study and right thinking, their hearts tender by sympathy and loving service and their spirits joyous through a constant search for truth and beauty.

These clubs give to those who are worthy, dependable, and capable a opportunity to develop their talents of leadership. They offer possibilities of developing real traits of citizenship in the group by giving pupils the experiences of real life. Substantial gains come to the pupil through his ability to meet people, his added material for thought, self-reliance, fair-mindedness, tolerance, poise and personal charm. Their initiative, responsibility and willingness to work with others for a common purpose develops a school spirit which exemplifies the finest attributes of a citizen who has a wholesome respect for the enforcement of law and order in the city, state and nation.

Substantial gains to the school are recognized in better understanding of the pupil on the part of the teacher, enjoyment of school life on the part of the pupil, improved discipline and better results generally than from purely academic work.

McGuffey offers a rich and varied program through valuable supplementary aids to classroom procedure adequate library material, six hundred Keystone slides, Victrola and records,

field trips and our newest and most enjoyed acquisition, a motion picture machine.

Public spirited citizens have aided McGuffey in its efforts to vitalize school work through gifts of travel pictures, slide machine and decorative pictures for the classrooms.

The living past in its relation to the present is brought vividly before the pupils by pilgrimages to places of historic interest and units of work in literature, music and art. The value of the curriculum for their present needs is impressed upon pupils through a study of existing institutions such as banks, factories and the postal system. Their part in a world community is made real through travel units in geography and units on international relations in history and civics.

The value of an individual life speaks silently from the tinted photograph of Dr. William H. McGuffey which hangs in the entrance hall of the school. This photograph was presented to the school by Miss Anna Howard, a sister-in-law of Dr. McGuffey, and is a much prized possession of the school. From the walls of classrooms and corridors other kindly faces of the great of the past remind McGuffey pupils that:

"We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of Time."

Thus does McGuffey offer each pupil who enters, whether from homes of plenty or poverty, an enriched period of training that will enable them to go forth into our city, state and nation with lofty ideals for harmonious and useful living.

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

Mrs. Woodson has very ably told what McGuffey tries to do for her pupils. At this building the meetings of the school board are held and here the records of this body are kept. During each school session from day to day for twenty years, I have seen the children passing back and forth in the corridor by the glass-paneled door of my office. The wave of little hands and the smile of happy faces make life seem to me a venture full of youthful romance.