

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

New Designation X
Amendment of a previous designation
Please summarize any amendment(s)

Property name Lafayette Elementary School
If any part of the interior is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.

Address 5701 Broad Branch Road

Square and lot number(s) Square 3648, Lot 809

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3G

Date of construction 1931-1942 Date of major alteration(s) 1977, 2016

Architect(s) Albert Harris Architectural style(s) Colonial Revival

Original use School Present use School

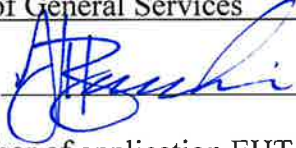
Property owner The District Columbia

Legal address of property owner 1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004-3003
NAME OF APPLICANT(S) Department of General Services

If the applicant is an organization, it must submit evidence that among its purposes is the promotion of historic preservation in the District of Columbia. A copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, or by-laws, setting forth such purpose, will satisfy this requirement.

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) 2000 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20009
202-727-2800

Name and title of authorized representative Jeff Bonvechio, Deputy Director for Capital Construction, Department of General Services

Signature of representative  Date 3.24.17

Name and telephone of author of application EHT Traceries, Inc. (202) 393-1199

Date received
H.P.O. staff

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lafayette Elementary School

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 5701 Broad Branch Road, NW

City or town: Washington State: D.C. County: _____

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION
School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION
School

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick and Wood

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The original Lafayette Elementary School was constructed between 1931 and 1942 based on a standardized plan developed in the late 1920s by Municipal Architect Albert Harris. The school, designed in the Colonial Revival style, consists of a two-and-one-half story rectangular central block with north and south two-story wings connected to the central block through hyphens (Photo 1). The original building was constructed in three phases due to fiscal constraints. The north classroom wing, completed in 1931, was the first part of the school. The central block and south classroom wing were completed in 1938 with some interior shell spaces completed in 1942. In the late 1970s, the original academic spaces were converted to “open classrooms” plans to support the current teaching pedagogy. In addition to the revisions to the academic spaces, a semi-circular cafeteria wing was added to the east of the center block, a gymnasium was added to the southeast and an early learning center addition was constructed on the south west edge of the site along Northampton Street.

As part of 2016 renovations to modernize the building, all of the the 1970s additions were removed and new classrooms and student service spaces were constructed onto the east elevations of the original north and south wings and central block. A separate gymnasium wing was constructed in place of the 1970s-south addition, fronting Northampton Street. These new additions have been designed to complement the Colonial Revival architecture of the original building. Part of the 2016 renovations have also been undertaken to reverse the open classroom design by reconstructing the original corridor plan with partitioned classrooms.

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Narrative Description Site

The Lafayette Elementary School is located at Square 2012, within the Chevy Chase neighborhood of Washington, D.C (Figure 1). The square is bounded by Northampton Street, N.W., to the south, 33rd Street, N.W., to the east, Quesada Street, N.W., to the north, and Broad Branch Road, N.W., to the west. Square 2012 is a multi-use, primarily municipally-owned parcel that also contains the Lafayette Recreation Center and the expansive Lafayette Park, which occupies the north half of the reservation. The Lafayette Elementary School, with its playing fields, occupies most of the south half of the square. The school's public entrance is orientated towards Broad Branch Road while the school's student activities are oriented to the east toward the playing fields.

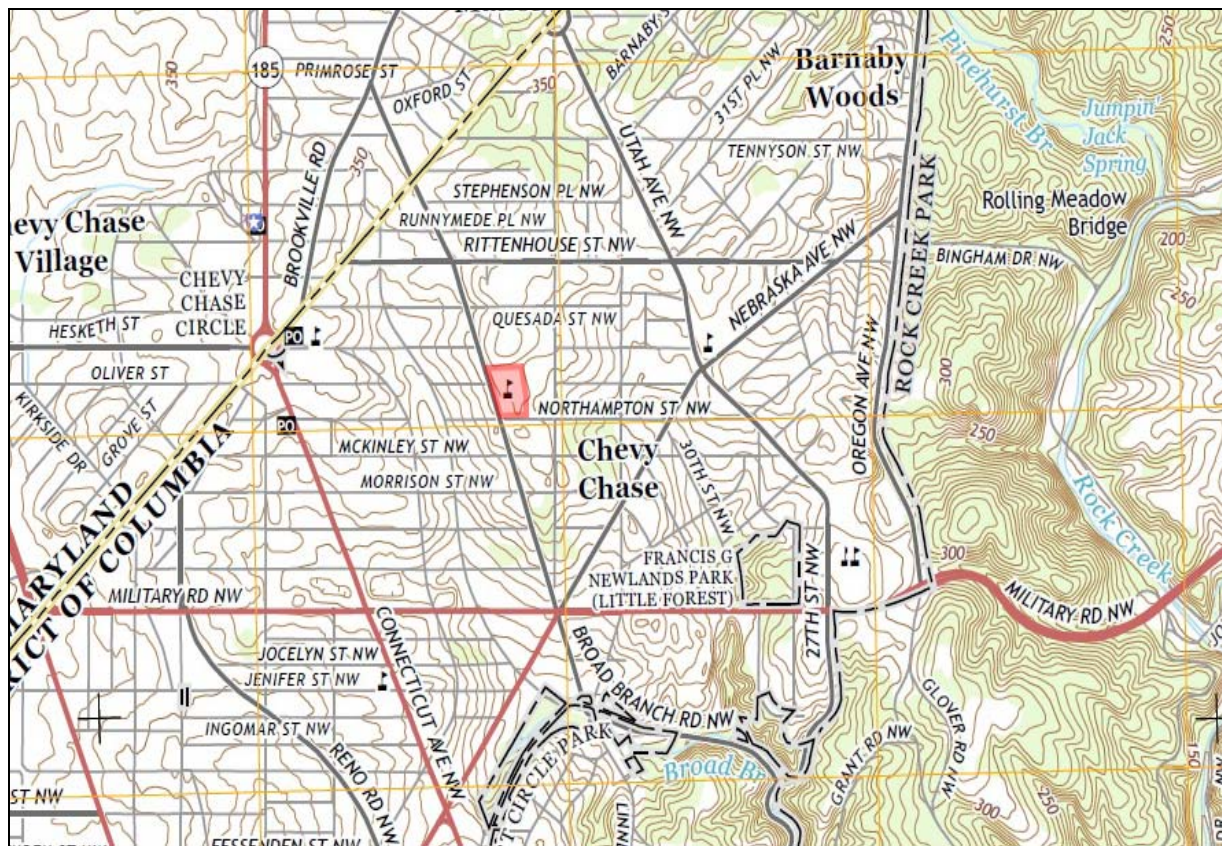


Figure 1: USGS Quad Map, Washington West, 2014
United States Geological Survey

The square's original rolling topographic character was terraced with the construction of the school and playing fields to provide level building and playing areas. The park sits atop the highest terrace while the school and associated playing fields occupy the middle and lower terraces respectively. The embankments of the terraces along Broad Branch Road, Quesada Street and 33rd Street are landscaped with vegetation, mostly small plants and bushes (Photo 2).

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Sidewalks into the park, school and playing fields have concrete or brick steps providing access from street level to the top of the terraces (Photo 3).

Original Construction (1931-1942)

The western half of the current school building facing Broad Branch Road consists of the original building that was constructed in two stages between 1931 and 1938. The design for the building is based on Albert Harris's standardized plan consisting of a central two-and-one-half story rectangular main block flanked by two-story wings connected to the north and south sides of the main block through two-story hyphens

Portions of the central main block, both wings, and the hyphens are set on a stone foundation wall with brick walls above laid in six-course common bond with limestone quoins at the corners. Windows are consistent throughout the two phases of the building and consist of double-hung windows with limestone sills, capped by jack arch lintels with limestone keystones. The original painted wood windows featured twelve-over-twelve lights. During the 1970s construction, the wood windows were replaced with aluminum double hung windows with false muntins in a nine-over-nine pattern. The 2016 project replaced the windows with aluminum double hung windows with false muntins in the original twelve-over-twelve pattern.

The central main block consists of a two-and-one half story projecting pavilion capped by a slate-clad, front-gabled roof facing Broad Branch Road (Photo 4). A wooden denticulate cornice at the eaves runs around all sides of the central main block (Photo 5). A large cupola rests on a brick pedestal set atop the roof of the main block (Photo 6). The pedestal contains a wood cornice topped by a solid wood balustrade featuring incised rectangular panels. The octagonal shaped wood cupola atop the pedestal is adorned with Tuscan pilasters. The north, south, east, and west sides of the cupola are pierced by arched 25-light windows with wood hoods. The cupola is capped by a metal clad dome topped by a metal weather vane.

The west (front) elevation of the central main block features a three-bay façade accented by limestone quoins. The stone foundation, common on the remainder of the original buildings, turns the north and south west corners of the pavilion and ends below the quoins, highlighting the building's entrance. The first story contains an inset entry porch accessible through three arched openings, each containing an arched brick hood resting on limestone springlines. The brick hoods are accented with a course laid in stretcher bond with a limestone keystone. Three separate entrances pierce the elevation inside the inset porch. All three entrances consist of double-leaf paneled doors with multi-light rectangular transoms. Each entrance is recessed inside wood surrounds that are lined with painted coffered paneled side-walls. The central entrance is capped by a pediment. The two side entrances flanking the central entrances are capped with flat entablatures. Three double-hung windows pierce the second story above the inset porch, and a circular nine-light window pierces the gable end. The circular window is enclosed by soldier course brick surrounds with four limestone springline stones at the top, bottom, and both sides of the window. The gabled end is accented with a wood denticulated cornice that returns at each corner (Photo 7).

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Two-story, gabled-roof hyphens extend from both the north and south ends of the central main block connecting to the north and south classroom wings of the school. The hyphens are two bays wide, being pierced by two, double-hung windows on both stories of its west (front) elevation. Both the north and south wings are identical in design, consisting of two-story, three-by-fourteen bay rectangular blocks accented with limestone quoins (Photos 8 and 9). Both wings are capped with hipped roofs containing one centrally located wood cupola pierced by louvered openings. Wood cornices and dentils adorn the top of the facades under the roof eaves. Small two-story, front-gabled, entry bays extend from the center of the west (front) elevations of the two wings. Limestone quoins accentuate the entry bay's projection from the façade of the wing's main block. A stone stoop provides access to each of the wings entrances in the center of the projecting bays. A portico, located atop each of the stoops, contains a flat roof with decorative metal balustrades supported by two pairs of wood, attenuated Tuscan columns. Cornice details on the porticos consist of dentils and four carved circle motifs. A recessed entry located under the portico contains double-leaf, paneled doors. Painted paneled wood side and ceiling panels line the inside of the recessed entry bays. A carved wood fan or sunburst motif adorns the arched wood panel located above the double-leaf entrance. Paired square, wood attenuated Tuscan pilasters flank the entrance aligning with the free-standing columns and "carrying" the perimeter porch beams. A Palladian window pierces the second story above the main entrance, and is surrounded by a wrought-iron balustrade set atop the portico. The window located inside an arched opening is accented by a brick hood arranged in stretcher bond and set on limestone springlines. The arched hood also contains a limestone keystone. The Palladian window is comprised of a central double-hung window with a nine-over-nine lite configuration and two slender side two-over-two, double-hung windows. Originally of wood, the new replacement windows are aluminum matching the remainder of the replacement windows. The center window is capped by a six-light arched transom with false muntins in a arched tracery pattern. Incised arched square panels adorn the arch above the window units (Photo 10).

Both the north and south side elevations of the wings contain even fenestration on both stories with windows piercing the elevation in patterns of four-one-four-one-and-four (Photo 11). The only break in the even fenestration are bay windows located near the west ends of the first story wings facing the entry court (north wing –south façade, south wing- north façade). The wood bay windows feature front-facing, triple double-hung windows displaying a nine-over-nine light configuration. The angled sides of the bays each have one double hung window with a six-over-six configuration. The windows have recessed panels below the wood sills and are separated by significantly attenuated Tuscan pilasters. A sloped copper roof caps each bay (Photo 12).

2016 Renovations

In 2016, the Lafayette Elementary School was renovated as part of a modernization project for District of Columbia Public Schools. This project resulted in the demolition of the 1977 additions and the construction of above and below-grade additions on the eastern half of the building to provide classroom and other student service spaces (Photo 13). The new additions mimic the u-shaped configuration of the original school with two east projecting wings and a

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center recessed terrace and “porch”. A separate gymnasium wing was also constructed at the location of the 1977 south wing (Photo 14). A newly constructed hyphen connects the gymnasium to the south wing of the original school.

The two classroom wing additions built onto the east ends of the original north and south wing are identical in size, scale, and massing and were designed to be compatible with the Colonial Revival architecture of the original building. These additions are two-story, three-by-eleven bay, rectangular structures capped with a flat roof, each wing featuring a projecting rectangular bay on its east elevation. The exterior elevations of the wings are faced with brick with a molded belt-cornice located to align with the cornice on the original buildings (Photo 15). The fenestration on the north and south elevations are nearly identical to that on the original wings. Eleven one-over-one, double-hung windows with false muntins giving a twelve-over-twelve appearance are aligned on the first and second stories with the windows in the original wings. Each window is capped with a jack-arch lintel, matching those on the original building.

The new classroom wings project out toward the east playing fields creating a protected recessed raised terrace in the center. The east end of each wing includes a projecting bay on the first floor consisting of three pairs of fixed picture windows with recessed panels below the window sills. The window pairs are separated by attenuated Tuscan columns, similar in detail to the original entry court bays. Larger Tuscan columns highlight the corners of the bays. Above the bay is a recessed opening with three pairs of fixed picture windows under the continuous cornice and decorative patterned balustrade above set into the brick parapet. The west wall of the recessed center terrace is a one-story glass enclosed “porch” consisting of seven pairs of picture windows with recessed panels below separated by engaged Tuscan columns. A molded entablature and decorative molded balustrade cap the “porch” construction (Photo 16). The sides of the new wings form the north and south walls of the center recessed terrace. Painted wood door surrounds and decorative pediments, removed and salvaged from the original building, were restored, repaired and installed in this center terrace to provide secondary entrances to the school from the terrace. Set back from the “glass infilled” porch, the main building continues the facades of the wings with brick walls and typical punched windows with jack arches and cast stone keystones.

Connecting the existing and new academic wings to the south gym addition is a one-story hyphen. The east elevation of the connector matches the “porch” aesthetic of the center protected terrace and consists of seven bays separated by engaged Tuscan columns. Two of the bays have entry doors with transoms while the remaining five bays feature the same paired picture windows with recessed panels. As in the center terrace, the connector is topped with the same entablature and decorative balustrade.

The new gymnasium wing addition is south of the original building and includes a full-size gymnasium, a portico entrance and a multipurpose room/auxiliary gym. The west portion of the addition is the gymnasium. It is a high-bay, one-story, three-by-nine bay, brick-faced, rectangular wing capped by a synthetic slate clad, front-gabled roof. The west (front) elevation contains three bays. The center bay contains a large arched opening with high windows and molded recessed panels below (Photo 17). The two bays on both sides of the center bay contain

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large multi-pane, picture windows. The south elevation has bays delineated by engaged piers (Photo 18). The center six bays contain paired multi-light high picture windows located just below the roof line. Below the windows are patterned brick panels. Adjacent to the gym is the south gym portico entrance. The entrance is a two story three bay wide hyphen between the gym and the multipurpose room. The first floor of the entrance features a recessed portico with engaged and freestanding Tuscan columns supporting an entablature and second floor. The second floor mimics the first floors three bays with windows and molded trim. To the east of the entrance portico is the multipurpose room “pavilion”. The pavilion is a one-by-four bay, side-gabled, pavilion orientated perpendicular with the primary rectangular mass of the structure. The east elevation of this side-gabled pavilion is divided into four bays by five engaged brick piers. Paired, twelve-light picture windows with false muntins are located within each of the four bays just below the roofline with brick patterned panels below the south elevation contains a large arched opening with triple multi-light windows and molded recessed panels below. The entire gym wing has a continuous molded cornice matching the cornice on the remainder of the addition.

Interior

The interior of both the north and south wings and the original center main block of the original building were all substantially renovated as part of the 1977 modernization of the school. For both wings, the original central corridor plan was replaced with open concept learning centers. Partitions to classrooms were removed creating an open space floor plan for most of the first and second floors. Small rooms were created for storage, project areas, and teacher preparation areas. Most of these areas lacked notable historic features and were finished with tile floors and drop ceilings. Temporary partitions, arranged between many of the square columns that extended through the center of the long axis of the building, were installed by teachers to enclose learning areas. The 2016 renovation to the school restored the original central corridor and returned the classrooms to a more traditional partitioned room arrangement accessed from the central corridor. Also during the 1977 renovation, the plaster that once lined the inside of the exterior perimeter walls was removed leaving only exposed brick. As part of the 2016 project, the exterior walls were insulated, the walls furred out and new drywall installed with new resin window sills and painted wood window jamb extensions.

The only extant interior feature in both the north and south wing classrooms areas remaining from the original building are the window seats built into the interior of the bay window facing the central courtyard (Photo 19). These window seats consist of a wood bench with paneled backing containing recessed squares built into the space created by the bay window. Radiators were enclosed below the seat and grills were recessed in the seat backs. As part of the 2016 renovation, the window seats were stripped of paint, repaired and restained. Grills were cleaned and reinstalled. Radiators, though abandoned with the new HVAC work, were left in place.

The original stairwells located at the west end of the north and south wings remain intact. The stairs are steel structure with concrete infill and slate treads and landings. The steel risers featured incised rectangular detailing. Metal guards and newel posts supported stained wood

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handrails. Walls of the stairs were tiled up to approximately six feet with 4x4 tile set in a stacked bond. The Palladian window was trimmed out with stained wood trim that had been painted during the 1977 renovation (Photo 20). Finally, the entry vestibule to the stair contained square terracotta flooring tiles and cove base. All of the stair, including the window trim, was renovated back to the original construction except for the wall tile which was removed and replaced with new subway tile as part of lead remediation.

The interior of the central block of the school was also heavily renovated during the 1977 modernization. It contained the main lobby and the school library along with a few administrative offices. The original entry foyer located between the lobby and the main entrance of the school is the only part of the central bay that contains original features (Photo 21). The walls of the foyer contain wood wainscoting containing incised square panels. The wainscoting matches wood molding over the doorways. The north and south ends of the foyer contain arched doorways flanked by wood pilasters supporting a wood hood. These arched openings lead to alcoves containing an exhibit wall on the north and the security entrance on the south. Two doorways on the east side of the entry foyer provide access to the main lobby. Both doorways are capped by rectangular, thirteen-light transoms.



Photo 1: Lafayette Elementary School, West Elevation, Looking East
Hartman-Cox, February 2017