

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD**

**APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION**

New Designation  Historic District

Amendment of a previous designation \_\_\_\_\_

Please summarize any amendment(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Browne Junior High School, Charles Young Elementary School, and Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (aka Vocational) High School, and Their Grounds and Surrounding Landscape's Educational Campus and Historic District.

Property name \_\_\_\_\_

*If any part of the interior is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.*

850 - 26<sup>th</sup> Street, N.E., 820 - 26<sup>th</sup> Street, N.E., and 704 - 26<sup>th</sup> Street, N.E., and their grounds and surrounding landscape.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel 1600043 1600043 and/or 1600045

Square and lot number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

5B (5D in 2013)

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission \_\_\_\_\_

1931 - 1952

Date of construction \_\_\_\_\_ Date of major alteration(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Merrel Coe, Municipal Arch/Nathan Wyeth, Architect 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Colonial Revival

Architect(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Architectural style(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Public Schools

Public Schools

Original use \_\_\_\_\_ Present use \_\_\_\_\_

D.C. Government

Property owner \_\_\_\_\_

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Legal address of property owner \_\_\_\_\_

Kingman Park Civic Association

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

Frazer Walton - 1913 D Street, N.E. DC 20002 (202) 398-8920

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Veronica Raglin 408 - 21<sup>st</sup> Street, N.E., DC 20002 (202) 396-7653

Frazer Walton, President & Veronica Raglin, Chair - Executive Board

Name and title of authorized representative \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of representative Frazer Walton Veronica Raglin Date April 22, 2013 2013

Frazer Walton (202) 398-8920 [Frawalton@verizon.net]

Name and telephone of author of application \_\_\_\_\_

Date received 4/25/13

H.P.O. staff JD

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Browne Junior High School, Charles Young Elementary School, and Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (formerly Vocational) High School, Spingarn Senior High School grounds, stadium and landscape Historic District

other names/site number Browne, Young, Phelps and Spingarn Historic District

## 2. Location

street & number 850 26<sup>st</sup> St. N.E., 820 26<sup>st</sup> St. N.E., and 704 26<sup>st</sup> St. N.E., 2500 Benning Road, N.E.

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |

not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C.

vicinity

state District of Columbia code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20002

## 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     local

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

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

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

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

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | private          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - Local   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - State   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - Federal |

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | district    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | site        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | structure   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | object      |

| <u>Contributing</u>  | <u>Noncontributing</u> |
|--|------------------------|
| Browne Junior High School, Charles Young Elementary School, Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (formerly Vocational) High School Spingarn Senior High School | buildings              |
| Grounds and landscapes   | sites                  |
|  | structures             |
|  | objects                |
| 4  | <b>Total</b>           |

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

Browne, Young, Phelps, Spingarn are related Multiple property listing.

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

Langston Dwellings and Langston Golf Course

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education – Elementary and Secondary School

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education – Elementary and Secondary School

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Colonial Revival – Georgian  
and Federal Style

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Red Brick

roof: Asphalt

other: Exterior Material: Red Brick and wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

Spingarn Senior High School, Browne Junior High School, Charles Young Elementary School, and Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering (formerly Vocational) High School are located on approximately 27.25 sloping acres of land overlooking the historic Langston Golf Course and Anacostia River in the Kingman Park neighborhood of northeast Washington, D.C. The historic Langston Dwellings are located in the rear southwestern portion of the school buildings and the Carver Terrace apartments are located in the rear northeastern portion of the properties. The legal description is known as Parcel 160/45 in the land records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia. The actual complex includes four public school buildings with sloping landscapes which extend from Benning Road beginning at 800 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Street through the entire length of the street ending at the end of the 700 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Street. The first structure or building at the corner of Benning Road and 26<sup>th</sup> Street, N.E., is a related property known as Spingarn Senior High School.

Spingarn High School was designated as a D.C. historic landmark by the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board on November 29, 2012.

The educational campus (Young, Browne, Phelps and Spingarn) is located in the political subdivision of Ward 5 in the District of Columbia. The Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) is 5B (5D in 2013), and the single member district is 5B12 (5D04 in 2013). The neighborhood civic association is the Kingman Park Civic Association, which was founded in

Name of Property

County and State

1927. The school site is zoned R-5-B., and has great historical significance because the school was built specifically for African American students in the only neighborhood specifically designed and constructed for African Americans in Washington, DC. The school sits southeast of the historic Langston Dwellings which was designed by renowned architect Hilyard Robinson, a native Washingtonian, and constructed by the United States Government as the first public housing in the District of Columbia, and only the second in the country. Across from Spingarn High School is the historic Langston Golf Course which was constructed for African American golfers, who were unable to play on other Washington area courses.

All of this history encompasses the surrounding Spingarn environment, and should be recognized as an undisturbed national historic treasure. Spingarn High School has graduated thousands of African American students since its inception, and continues to do so. The school and site is supported by the Spingarn Alumni Association, Inc., and the Kingman Park Civic Association, which was founded in 1934. The community seeks preservation of the school and its green space as an example of a well-designed, pleasingly aesthetic work of art and architecture. The school is situated on the hillside of the Anacostia River and incorporates the original environmental plans of the 1901 congressional McMillan Commission.

The school's street, sidewalk, stadium, and landscape design reflect aesthetic appreciation of the proposed District, combined with thoughtfulness of public safety for students, teachers, parents and community alike. This was all done at a time when the field of urban planning was still in its infancy.

#### **Hugh M. Browne Junior High School:**

The subjects of this application for historic designation are the three remaining public school buildings and grounds as mentioned above (Browne, Young and Phelps). The first building located in the 700 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Street NE is Browne Junior High School. The architectural style is Colonial Revival, and the architect is S.B. Walsh. The legal description in the land records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia is Square 4479 in Lot 160/21. The original Parcel was 160. The Browne site was purchased in July, 1929 by the District of Columbia Board of Commissioners, and received a subsidy by the D.C. Board of Education in the amount of \$200,000.00. In May, 1930 initial cost of construction was estimated to be \$300,000.00, and final construction cost amounted to appropriately \$418,873.00. Browne is a three story brick masonry school with fifteen windows across the front of the original building on the second and third floors. The front façade consists of brick with limestone coursing and cornice. The first floor has three arching metal doors in the center entrance and twelve windows along the front of the building (six windows on each side of the doors). The building has a concrete stairway leading from 26<sup>th</sup> Street to the center entrance door. Browne has an additional brick masonry structure that was built in approximately 1997, alongside the original building. The addition is a three story brick building attached to the original structure on the right side of the main building. Alterations and additions were made to the building in 1936, 1953, 1958 (south), 1969 (north), and 1997. The original land value was \$169,258.80. In 1931-32, the initial construction cost amounted to \$449,361.93, and the second addition in 1937, was built at a cost of \$165,954.53. The original building was completed in 1932, by Arthur L. Smith and Company.

A three story addition was added in 1957, which consisted of printing, electrical, woodworking, and home-economics, and mechanical drawing, art and music classrooms. By 1960, the total school enrollment was 1080 students.

#### **Charles Young Elementary (formerly Platoon) School:**

On July 30, 1929, the District of Columbia Board of Education purchased land at what is now 820 26<sup>th</sup> Street, N.E., for the construction of the new platoon school for "colored children." On May 21, 1930, the DC Board of Education recommended that the new proposed new platoon be named Charles Young School in honor of former U.S. Army Colonel Charles Young. On January 7, 1931, the DC Board of Commissioners awarded a contract to Graham Construction Company for the construction of Young Platoon School at a cost of \$200,500.00. The value of the land was listed as \$170,000.00. An additional contract was awarded to the Bright-Shepherd Company for site excavation, filling, grading and gravel road construction at a cost of \$14,445.00. The school has 1,850,425 square feet of space. The final cost of construction was reported to be \$211,238.45. The school location was initially described as squares 4485 and 4497 in the land records of the District of Columbia. The original land site was a part of Parcel 160 of the city's land records. An eleven room addition was built in 1937 on the north side; additional construction was added in 1948 on the southwest side of the building. An additional structure was added in 1978.

Name of Property

County and State

The architectural style is Colonial Revival, and the structure blends with the other three schools either adjacent to, or within the same Parcel. Young school "hipped" roof with a front gable topping a painted white wood double portico. A cupola extrudes from behind the portico, which designates the main entrance of the building through three doors recessed from the front columns. Twelve over twelve windows grouped in fours span the façade. The middle door is under an arched pediment. At the end of the front façade are two pedimented portals. A single bay deep, the side facades consist of three arched Palladian windows underneath a pediment. The height of the building is 28 feet, and the school appears as the center piece of this educational campus.

### **Seth L. Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering (formerly Vocational) Senior High School:**

In 1934, the District of Columbia built Phelps Senior High School for the vocational education of black male students during the period of racial segregation. Female students were first admitted in 1942. The school has two stories and a basement. The height of the building is 28 feet. The architectural design of Phelps is Colonial Revival and Neo-Classical. According to the DC Public School Building Survey, Phase II, Phelps is located behind Browne Junior High School, and emphasizes its portal through an extruded central pavilion with a two portico topped with a corbelled pediment, all at the top of sixty three steps. Phelps sits at the top of a hill that looks down into the parking lot below and out over fronting Browne Junior High School. Each side of the entrance is divided into six smaller sections identified by the window grouping of the twelve over twelve windows. On the west side, a series of flat-rooted rectangular brick structures with arched openings extend off of the original south façade consisting of brick quoins, pedimented doorway and wood frames, stone silled window. On the north side is a brick and exposed concrete addition with ribbon windows. The school was constructed by the Catalano Construction Company at a cost of \$312,000.00. Phelps has 57 concrete steps with 6 granite steps leading up the hill to the front door. A multi-purpose room addition was constructed in 1972.

In 2002, Phelps Vocational School was closed due to declining student enrollment, and a lack of interest in the support of vocational trades. In 2008, the city re-opened and renovated the school at a cost of approximately \$65 million dollars. Phelps was renamed "Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering School," and according to the city, Phelps is the nation's first construction and engineering high school. The school was re-opened during the administration of Mayor Adrian Fenty.

### **Joel Elias Spingarn High School:**

Spingarn High School is located on 25<sup>th</sup> Place in northeast Washington, D.C., overlooking the banks of Anacostia River. The school site has lower and upper beautifully landscaped property that gives a collegiate like setting to the school campus. The landscape blends well with the outstanding architecturally designed facility. The legal description is also known as Parcel 160-0045 (1600045) in the land records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia. The proposed historic landmark contains a school building and lot consisting of approximately 27.25 acres of land. The site or landmark is 499.90 feet long and 742.52 feet wide. Spingarn was constructed at a cost of \$3,600,000.00. The architectural design and plans were created by Nathan C. Wyeth and Merrel Coe, municipal architect of the District of Columbia. The building has 225,000 square feet of space. The enrollment rose to 896 pupils in 2009-2010.

The school is named after Joel Elias Spingarn, an educator and one of the first Jewish leaders of the National Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Under Mr. Spingarn leadership the Spingarn Medal was established in 1913 and awarded to outstanding African Americans in all areas of achievement. The school is in the Kingman Park neighborhood which was officially established in 1927, and became the first Washington neighborhood of townhouses to be developed and constructed for African Americans. Construction of Spingarn began in 1950, and was completed in 1952. The school has a concrete foundation with brick walls and massive columns reminiscent of the Neo-Classical Revival or Collegiate Gothic style of construction. The building is somewhat square in shape with an elevated botanical garden and/or atrium constructed on the south side. The school sits on a beautifully landscaped green campus adjacent to Benning Road.

Spingarn was built in a campus like setting and functions as a portion of a K-12 public school complex, which is situated between the nationally recognized and historic Langston and Carver Terrace Dwellings, and historic Langston Golf Course, both of which are in the National Register of Historic Places. Spingarn sits next to Browne Junior High School, which is named after Hugh M. Browne, Howard University professor and well known educator. Browne Junior High was originally constructed in 1932 to support students in the Kingman Park community. Next to Browne Junior High, and approximately 100 yards from Spingarn is Charles Young Elementary School, named after United States Army Colonel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Charles E. Young, a West Point graduate and the first African American to reach the rank of colonel, and to serve as a U.S. national park superintendent. Phelps Vocational High School is situated next to Charles Young Elementary School, and comments the system complex as one of the only vocational and technical high schools in the District. Spingarn High School is a part of this three school complex which forms a collegiate like setting on the banks of the Anacostia River. The Spingarn, Charles Young, Browne and Phelps' construction are unique. The educational campus has an inviting appearance that enhances the concept of a new and vibrant community extending from the 1930s until the present.

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

A. The educational campus was built specifically for African-American students during a period of racial segregation that extended from 1931-54.

B. Browne, Charles Young, Phelps and Spingarn were built through the efforts of many outstanding Americans, including Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, Dr. John Hope Franklin, Mary McCloud Bethune, Joel Elias Spingarn, Paul Robeson and others.

C. Distinctive architecture reflecting Colonial Revival style and Neo-Classical construction that blended with the Federal style homes of Kingman Park, the international architecture of Langston Dwellings, and the picturesque landscape of Langston Golf Course and the Anacostia River water front.

**Period of Significance**

1931 - present

**Significant Dates**

1931, 1934, 1951-52

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)



Name of Property

County and State

Joel Elias Spingarn, Hugh M. Browne, Charles  
Young, and Seth L. Phelps

**Architect/Builder**

S.B. Walsh (Browne); Fry and Welch (Phelps);

Nathan C. Wyeth and Merrel Coe (Spingarn).

**Cultural Affiliation**

Ethnic Heritage – Black/African-American

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The educational campus (schools) was built specifically for African-American students between 1930 and 1952. The schools were built in the middle class neighborhood of Kingman Park during the era of racial segregation in Washington, D.C. The schools were dedicated by many internationally famous and notable African-American leaders and educators during this time period. The period of significance continued well into the 1960s because of memorable events and persons, who memorialized the principles left by the schools' namesakes.

One such individual was former Phelps teacher and principal, Lt. Colonel Lemuel Augustus Penn. Lemuel Penn was born on September 19, 1915 in Madison County, Georgia. He graduated from Howard University, and served in World War II, where he was awarded a bronze star. While returning from U.S. Army Reserve summer camp training in Fort Benning, Georgia, Lt. Colonel Penn was murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan on July 11, 1964. At the time of his untimely death, Penn held the position of assistant superintendent of DC Public Schools. He was survived by two daughters and one son. Penn's daughter Linda attended Charles Young Elementary School at the time of his death.

Lt. Colonel Penn was killed nine days after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Penn's dedication to education, humanity, and service to his nation, are represented by the principles of equality established by Colonel Charles Young, Joel Elias Spingarn, Hugh M. Browne and Seth L. Phelps.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The first criteria of significance which qualifies the Browne, Young, Phelps and Spingarn educational campus as a historic District is **Criteria A – Property s associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.**

The public education of African-American students formally began during the civil war in America. In the District of Columbia, this educational event was marked by the passage of the Emancipation Act of 1862, which freed enslaved residents of the city. During that same year, the U.S. Congress established the Board of Trustees of Colored Schools for Washington and Georgetown. From 1862 until 1872, at least eleven schools for "Colored" students were established. In 1873, the District of Columbia Government was given authority by the U.S. Congress to control, regulate and administer the African-American public school system. The initial public schools constructed during this period were John O. Cook built in 1867, Thaddeus Stevens in 1868, and Sumner School, constructed in 1872. The design architect of these schools was Adolph Cluss. At the conclusion of reconstruction in 1875, there were ten African American public schools in the District with a total enrollment of approximately 5,400 students.

School racial segregation in the District and nation was officially established in 1896, based upon the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, an 1896 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that sanctioned racial segregation in education and public facilities under color of state law, also known as the doctrine of separate but equal. The lone dissenting opinion was written by Justice John Marshall Harlan, a former civil war union officer. In 1917, vocational education in the District was

Name of Property

County and State

first established by the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act, and by 1932, public school students were being "tracked" based upon the results of "intelligence tests."

During this same period (1930's), a number of laws that established racial segregation of public facilities and in employment were being challenged throughout the nation. In the District of Columbia, the New Negro Alliance, a civic, educational, benevolent and charitable organization, successfully established the right of its members to picket and peacefully demonstrate against a grocery company that the Alliance maintained discriminated against "Colored" persons in employment. In 1938, the U.S. Supreme Court in *New Negro Alliance v. Sanitary Grocery Company*, 303 U.S. 552, sanctioned the right of the Alliance to peacefully demonstrate against a labor dispute that the organization deemed discriminatory. The case was argued by attorneys, Belford V. Lawson, Jr., and Thurman L. Dodson, both of Washington, D.C.

As a result of the 1930s challenges against segregation in public facilities, several cases were successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court which challenged the "demonstrably unequal" status of schools in Missouri and Texas. In 1938, the Court in *Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada*, ordered the University of Missouri to integrate its law school. In the 1930s, labor unions began to integrate, and by 1948, several years after World War II, President Harry Truman ordered the integration of the Armed Forces of the United States. By 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court made a similar ruling in *Sweatt v. Painter*, but the Court's decisions did not directly overturn the separate but equal standard set in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. It was during this era of legal challenges and racial segregation that led to the construction of the Browne, Young, Phelps and Spingarn's Educational Campus.

Charles Young Elementary School, Browne Junior High School, Phelps Vocational High School, and Spingarn Senior High School were constructed and built to serve African American ("colored") children during the period of school racial segregation in Washington, DC. These historic schools were built to serve the growing African American student population in the Kingman Park, Kenilworth and River Terrace sections of Washington, DC. Homes in the Kingman Park neighborhood were originally purchased by African-Americans. The Young, Browne, Phelps and Spingarn educational campus was established to serve the educational needs of these communities.

In 1949, a group of African American Anacostia neighborhood parents filed suit against the District of Columbia to have their children admitted to the new all-white Sousa Junior High School. The NAACP filed suit on behalf of the parents, and the suit was filed in the lead name of Spottswood Thomas Bolling. The case is officially known as *Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497 (1954). The United States Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in the case in 1954, declaring that school segregation in the District was unconstitutional under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The case was originally argued one year prior to *Brown v. Board of Education*, and was reargued in 1953. Spottswood Bolling attended and graduated from Spingarn Senior High School in 1956.

The city's decision to build Spingarn Senior High School in 1950 to educate students in the Kingman Park and Kenilworth communities was so significant and important that dignitaries from around the country came to Washington, DC for the December 11, 1952 dedication. Principal speaker at the historic dedication was noted historian, Dr. John Hope Franklin, then a history professor at Howard University. Dr. Franklin addressed the ills of segregation during his keynote address. In attendance at the school's dedication ceremony, including honored guests, were Mrs. Edward Spingarn, wife of Joel E. Spingarn, and their son, Christopher Spingarn; noted historian and professor, Dr. W. E. B. Dubois; opera singer and actor, Paul Robeson; Mrs. Charles Drew, widow of Dr. Charles Drew; and Mrs. Martha K. Simpson, president of the Kingman Park Civic Association.

Letters and telegrams were sent by Spingarn medalist and other well-wishers, including Walter White, former NAACP staffer, who became an anti-lynching and fair employment advocate; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Judge William H. Hastie, an educator, lawyer, judge, and the first African American Governor of the United States Virgin Islands; Dr. Ralph Bunche, a political scientist, diplomat and 1950 Nobel Prize recipient; Mrs. Mary Bethune, founder of National Council of Negro Woman, and Bethune-Cookman College; Dr. Mordecai Johnson, the first African American president of Howard University.

In later years, civil rights activist, Rosa Parks, and Jesse Jackson, and former Virginia Governor, Douglas Wilder were awarded the Spingarn Medal.

Name of Property

County and State

Dr. Purvis J. Williams was appointed by the District of Columbia School board as the first principal of Spingarn High School. Dr. Williams previously served as vice-principal of Dunbar High School, the first high school built for American Americans in the District of Columbia.

At the time of the school's construction, Spingarn Senior High was recognized as the first high school built for African Americans since 1916, in a neighborhood specifically constructed for African Americans. It still remains as the last high school built for that purpose. The historic Langston Golf course, (which was built for the use of African American during racial segregation) sits directly across from the high school.

The educational campus and its beautifully landscaped grounds are truly worthy of preservation and recognition on the federal and state register of historic places.

The Second Criteria of Significance which qualifies the educational campus as a historic District is **Criteria B – The Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.**

**Hugh M. Browne:**

Browne Junior High School is named after renowned educator, Hugh M. Browne, who was born in the District of Columbia in June, 1851. His parents were John Browne and Elizabeth Wormley Brown. Hugh Browne was educated in the private and public schools of the District, and he attended Howard University, where in graduated in 1875. In 1878, Mr. Browne graduated from the Princeton Theological School, where he received a B.D. Degree. He was ordained and licensed as a minister in the District on May 20, 1878. Browne studied in Germany and Scotland, and served as a professor at Monrovia College in Monrovia, Liberia on the continent of Africa.

Mr. Brown served as head teacher in the Department of Physics in the Colored High School from 1886 until 1898. He taught physics at Hampton Institute (currently, Hampton University) in Hampton, Virginia from 1898 until 1901. Thereafter, he served as principal of the Colored High School in Baltimore, Maryland, and became principal of Cheyney Institute for Colored Youth in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, from 1902 until 1913. Cheyney Institute was the forerunner of Cheyney University. Hugh Browne died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 30, 1923, and was buried in Columbian Harmony Cemetery, in Washington, D.C. He was survived by his wife, Julia A. Browne.

**Charles Young:**

Charles Young Elementary School was named after Charles Young, a retired U.S. Army Colonel. Young was born on March 12, 1864, in the State of Kentucky, and raised in the State of Ohio. Colonel Young was graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1889. Colonel Young served on the western frontier of the U.S., as an officer in the famed 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, also known as the Buffalo Soldiers from 1889 until 1894. He also served as a Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio. Young also served in the Philippines, Port au Prince in Haiti, and Mexico. Colonel Young also served as a cavalry officer with "Teddy" Roosevelt and his "Rough Riders" during the famous expedition and charge at San Juan Hill in Cuba. In 1917, Colonel Young contracted malaria while serving in Africa, and retired on medical disability. As a result of his dedicated work and duty in Africa, Young was awarded the "Spingarn Medal." Colonel Young was called from retirement and served in Monrovia, Liberia, where he was appointed Military Attaché on November 4, 1919.

Colonel Young not only served as a military officer, but he also was known as an educator and scholar, who was proficient in several languages, including Latin, Greek, German, French, Spanish and Italian. Colonel Young was often visited at his home in Wilberforce, Ohio by his close friends, Paul Laurence Dunbar and Dr. W.E.B. Dubois.

**Seth Ledyard Phelps:**

Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering (formerly Vocational) High School was named after Naval Captain and Diplomat, Seth Ledyard Phelps. Phelps was born in Parkham, Ohio in 1824. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy. Seth Phelps served with military distinction during the civil war, and also served in China, Japan and Mexico. In 1865, Phelps established the Pacific Mail Steamship Line, where he served as President. Phelps was appointed

Name of Property

County and State

Commissioner of the District of Columbia from 1875 until 1879. He was later appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Peru, where he served as a diplomat from 1883 to 1885. Captain Phelps died in Lima, Peru in 1885.

### Joel Elias Spingarn:

The school is named after Joel Elias Spingarn, an educator and one of the first Jewish leaders of the National Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Spingarn was born in New York City. Mr. Spingarn graduated from Columbia College in 1895, where he studied comparative literature. Spingarn unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1908. He also served as a delegate to the Republican Convention from 1912 until 1916, where he condemned racial discrimination in America. Under Mr. Spingarn leadership the Spingarn Medal was established in 1913 and awarded to outstanding African Americans in all areas of achievement. Spingarn later served as a Professor of Comparative Literature at Columbia University from 1899 until 1911, where he published several books.

Spingarn served as a major in the United States Army during World War I. He co-founded the publishing firm of Harcourt, Brace and Company, in 1919, and engaged in the fight for racial justice in America. Spingarn joined the National Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and served in the organization as one of the first Jewish leaders of the NAACP. One of his most important achievements was when he established the Spingarn Medal in 1914, which is awarded annually by the NAACP to an African American for outstanding achievement. The medal has been awarded to such notable individuals as Colonel Charles Young, Dr. Charles Drew, and Dr. W.E.B. Dubois.

The connective link between Hugh M. Browne, Charles Young, Seth Ledyard Phelps and Joel Elias Spingarn is their dedication to racial justice, education and collaborative friendship. This has led to the establishment and construction of one of the most historical educational centers in the city and nation – Browne, Young, Phelps and Spingarn Educational Campus. The significance of this educational campus and its grounds, serve as evidence of a later generation's assessment of the past. This is shown by Lt. Colonel Lemuel Penn, who gave his life in honor, and in recognition of the principles and cultural values established by the aforementioned educational school namesakes. The DC Public School Penn Center Administrative Office was subsequently named in honor of the Lt. Colonel Lemuel Penn.

The Third Criteria of Significance is **Criteria 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.**

According to the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board, Spingarn is the last of the Classical Revival and Colonial Revival schools. Spingarn occupies the same parcel as Hugh M. Browne Junior High School (1932), Phelps Vocational School (1934) and Charles Young Public School (1937), on a rise overlooking the Anacostia River. The anachronistic classicism of Spingarn is appropriate as it relates to its older siblings, and it parallels the vocabulary of earlier high schools. Here, although fairly flattened, we have a truly classical, pedimented portico superimposed on a shallowly projecting pavilion, all over a rusticated base and fronting a strictly symmetrical plan. . . . This project was one of the last products of the Office of the Municipal Architect, established in 1909, and also one of Merrel Coe's last schools, at least as the superintendent of its construction. Stylistically, the building better represents the design work of Coe's predecessor, the Beaux-Arts-trained Nathan Wyeth.

The Historic Review Board also noted that the property retains high integrity; with little change to the massive block and two interior courtyards. . . The property retains its integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association, and with the exception of alterations. . . of materials and design.

The DC Historic Board notes that the educational campus in its entirety would appropriately be a single landmark or a historic district – and possibly a district in combination with the surrounding African-American landmark properties and the adjoining Kingman Park neighborhood, which was developed with African American purchasers in mind.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Members of the Spingarn Alumni Association, Inc. of Washington, DC

The 1954 Spingarn Alumni Class 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Publication.

Name of Property

County and State

“Public School Building Survey, Phase II – District of Columbia,” *The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.*

Barbara A. Sizemore, Superintendent of Schools, letter dated, May 15, 1974, concerning the late Lemuel A. Penn, former teacher and Principal of Phelps Vocational School.

D.C. Office of Planning Website

The District of Columbia Historic Review Board Historic Landmark Designation Case No. 12-07.

The District of Columbia Report of the Board of Education, 1930-1931.

“Phelps Strives to Educate as well as Train its Students,” *The Washington Afro-American Newspaper*, November 16, 1963.

Marcus Whitffens, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles* (M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, 1969)

John Poppeliers and S. Allen, *What Style is It* (Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., 1983)

Sandra Fitzpatrick and Maria R. Goodwin, *The Guide to Black Washington* (Hippocrene Books, New York, 1993).

“Spingarn Name for New School Lauded,” *Washington Tribune*, 17 May 1941.

“Final Plans Approved for Spingarn School Costing \$3,600,000,” *Evening Star*, 5 November 1944.

“1,200 Attend Dedication of Spingarn High School,” *Times Herald*, 12 December 1953.

“Dr. Williams is Named As First Principal of New Spingarn High,” *Times Herald*, 19 June 1952.

“Segregation Rapped at Spingarn Dedication,” *Evening Star*, 12 December 1953.

“Impressive rites mark dedication at Spingarn,” *Washington Afro-American*, 19 December 1953.

“Spingarn, Newest High School, Mirrors Changing Community,” *Washington Post*, 19 May 1957.

“Dave Bing honored as ‘pride’ of group,” *Washington Afro-American*, 24 July 1982.

“Apart but Feeling Equal – To Spingarn Alumni, Brown Ruling In 54 Brought Mostly Ambivalence,” *Washington Post*, 19 June 2004.

*Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497 (1954).

*Brown v. Board of Education*, 374 U.S. 483 (1954).

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 27.25  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

**Brown Junior High School**

UTM Zone 43N – UTM Easting 337183.35 – UTM Northing 218617.85  
(USNG) 18S UJ 2910707471  
Lat = 38 53 56 56.74 N (38.899095)  
Long = 76 58 15.55 W (-76.970987)

**Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School**

UTM Zone 43N – UTM Easting 337183.35 – UTM Northing 218617.85  
(U.S. National Grid) 18S UJ 29007 07749  
Lat = 38 54 7.7 N (38.901992)  
Long = 76 58 18.83 W (-76.971898)

**Charles Young Elementary School**

UTM Zone 43N – UTM Easting 337183.35 – UTM Northing 218617.85  
Lat = 38.900600  
Long = -76.971517

**Spingarn Senior High School**

UTM Zone 43N – UTM Easting 337183.35 – UTM Northing 218617.85  
Lat = 38.8994059  
Long = -76.9709998

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_

|                        |         |          |                        |         |          |
|------------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|---------|----------|
| Name of Property _____ |         |          | County and State _____ |         |          |
| Zone                   | Easting | Northing | Zone                   | Easting | Northing |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Browne, Young, Phelps and Spingarn Educational Campus are bounded by:

Benning Road, N.E., on the South;  
Eye Street, N.E., on the North;  
26<sup>th</sup> Street, N.E., and the Langston Golf Course on the East; and  
The Langston Terrace Dwelling on the West.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected based upon the nearest streets and landmarks next to the educational campus.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

|                 |   |           |                            |          |       |
|-----------------|---|-----------|----------------------------|----------|-------|
| name/title      | Frazer Walton, Jr., Pres., and Veronica E. Raglin, Sec., Ex. Bd Chair |           |                            |          |       |
| organization    | Kingman Park Civic Association  | date      | _____                      |          |       |
| street & number | 1913 D Street NE and 408 21 <sup>st</sup> Street NE                   | telephone | (202) 398-8920 or 396-7653 |          |       |
| city or town    | Washington, D.C.  | state     | DC                         | zip code | 20002 |
| e-mail          | Frawalton@verizon.net and veronica.raqlin@mris.com                    |           |                            |          |       |

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
See Exhibit # 5, 1950 Historic Educational Campus Picture and USGS Map, attached.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.  
See Exhibits # 1, 2, 3, 4.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Browne, Young, Phelps and Spingarn Educational Campus



Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

City or Vicinity: Washington, DC

County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: DC

Photographer: Frazer Walton and Veronica Raglin

Date Photographed: September 19, 2012 and April 5, 2013.

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

**Exhibit # 1 – Hugh M. Browne Junior High School Pictures and Map(s):**

- 1 A. Frontal View of Browne
- 1 B. Right Front of Browne (New Addition)
- 1 C. Left Side of Browne
- 1 D. Left Side of Browne (Showing a portion of Charles Young Elem.)
- 1 E. Rear Left Side of Browne
- 1 F. Original Picture of Browne (immediately after construction)
- 1 G. DC Office of the Surveyor – Design and Sketch

**Exhibit # 2 – Charles Young Elementary School Pictures and Map(s):**

- 2 A. Frontal View of Charles Young (from Young grounds)
- 2 B. Frontal View of Charles Young (from 26<sup>th</sup> Street)
- 2 C. Frontal View of Charles Young (from Middle of 26<sup>th</sup> Street)
- 2 D. Charles Young Cupola
- 2 E. DC Office of the Surveyor – Design and Sketch

**Exhibit # 3 – Seth L. Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering (formerly Vocational) High School Picture and Maps:**

- 3 A. Frontal Distant View of Phelps (Between Charles Young and Browne)
- 3 B. Rear Distant View of Phelps
- 3 C. Near Rear View of Phelps
- 3 D. Rear Arched Windows
- 3 F. DC Office of the Surveyor – Design and Sketch

**Exhibit # 4 – Joel Elias Spingarn Senior High School:**

- 4 A. Near Right Frontal View of Spingarn
- 4 B. Distant Right Frontal View of Spingarn
- 4 C. Left Side View of Spingarn (from Benning Road)
- 4 D. South Side View of Spingarn (from Benning Road)
- 4 E. Spingarn Stadium
- 4 F. Original Picture of Spingarn (immediately after construction)
- 4 G. Spingarn Drawing

**Exhibit # 5 – Historic 1950 Photograph of Educational Campus (During Spingarn Construction) and USGS Map.**

Photographer – Frazer Walton and Veronica Raglin

Dates Photographed – September 19, 2012 and April 5, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

**Property Owner:**

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

name DC Government  
street & number 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. telephone (202) 311  
city or town Washington, DC state DC zip code 20002

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**EXHIBIT # 1**

**BROWNE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MAP(S) AND  
PICTURES**



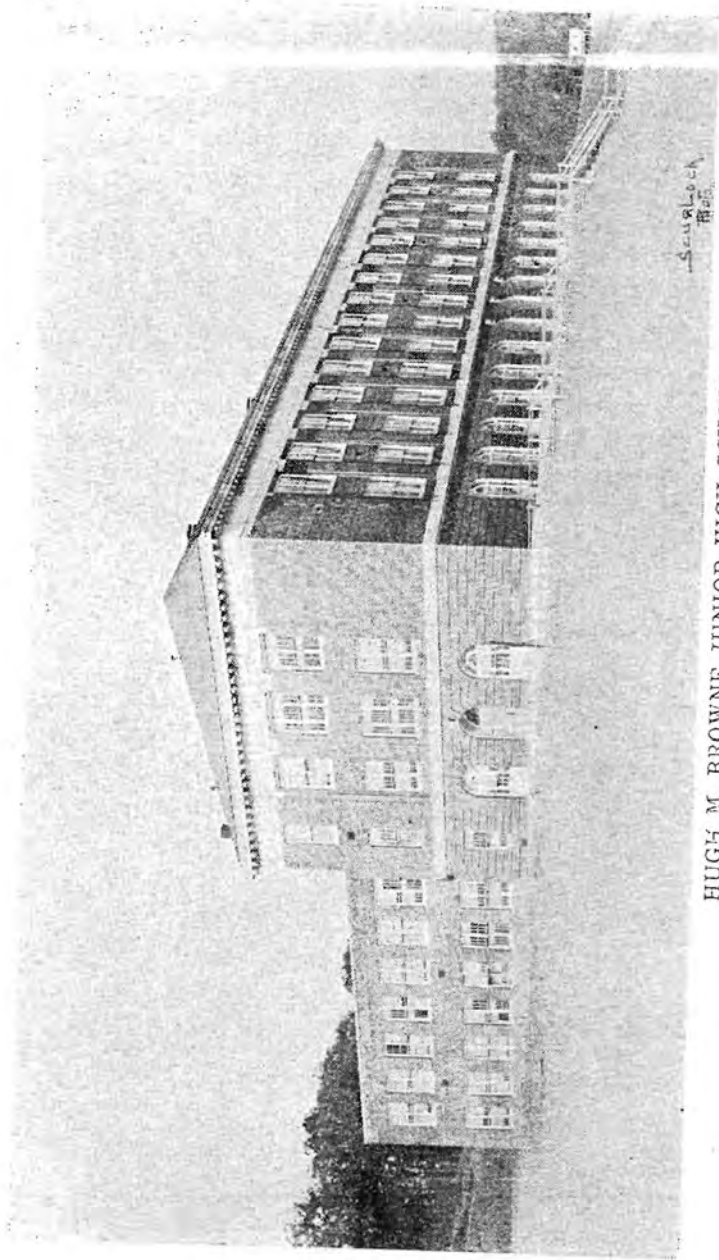












Seurlock  
1925

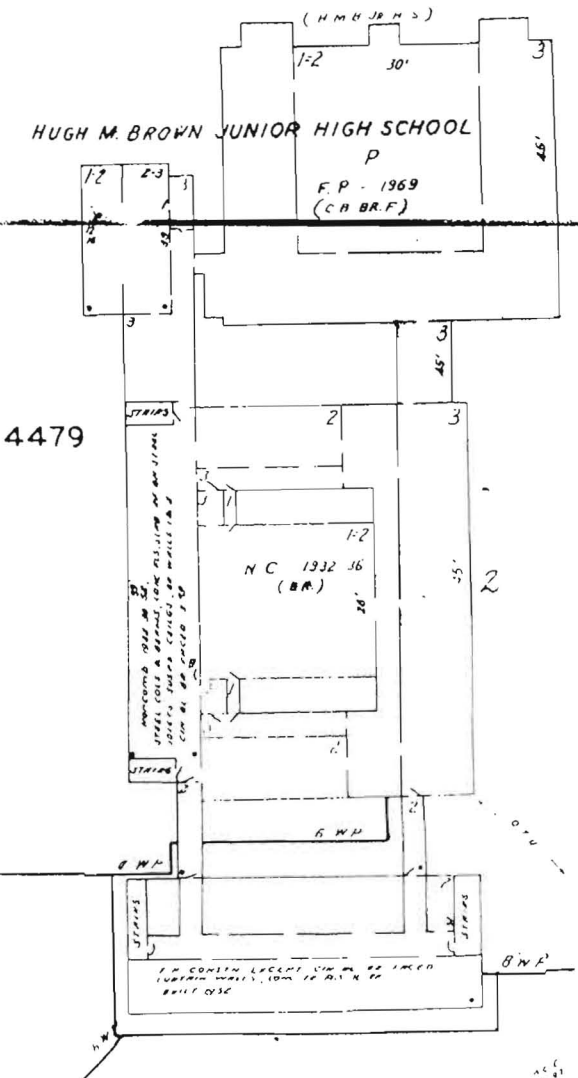
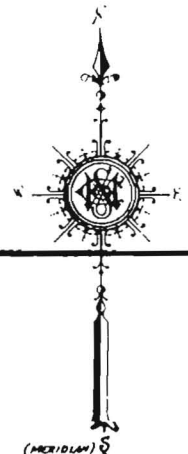
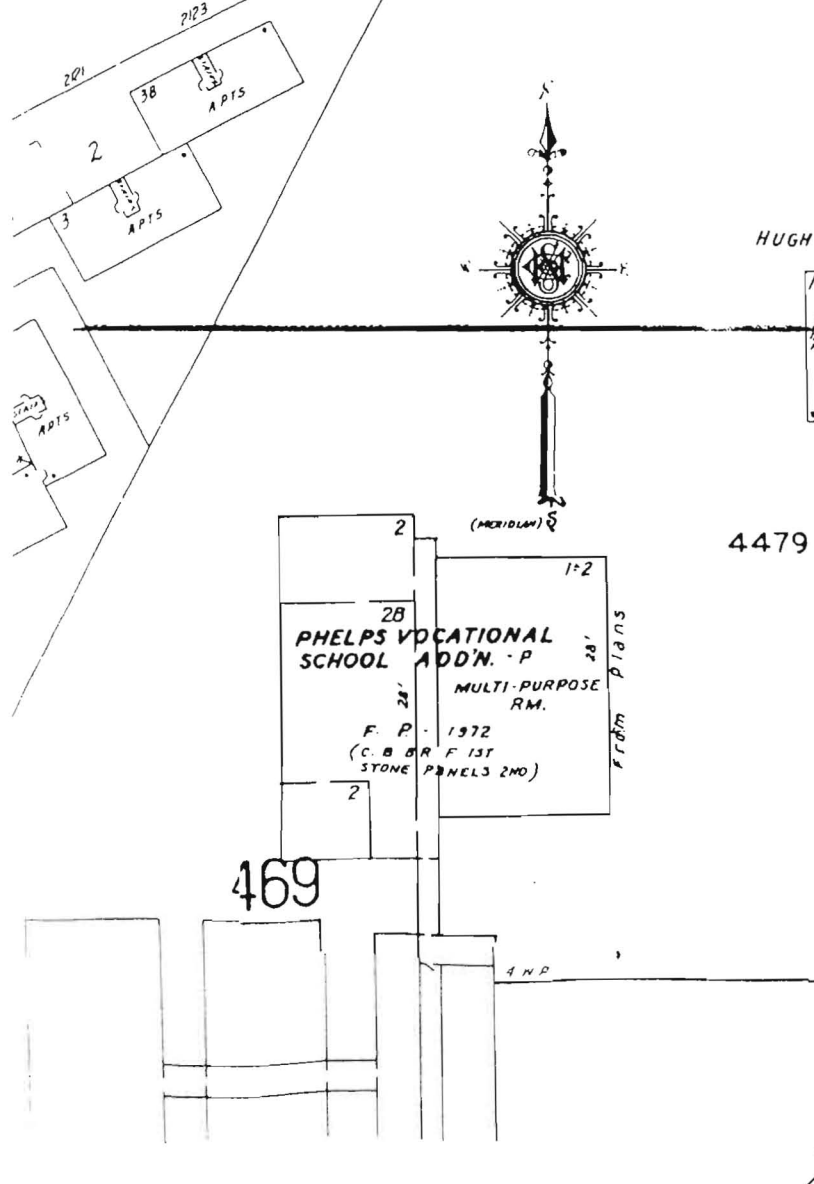
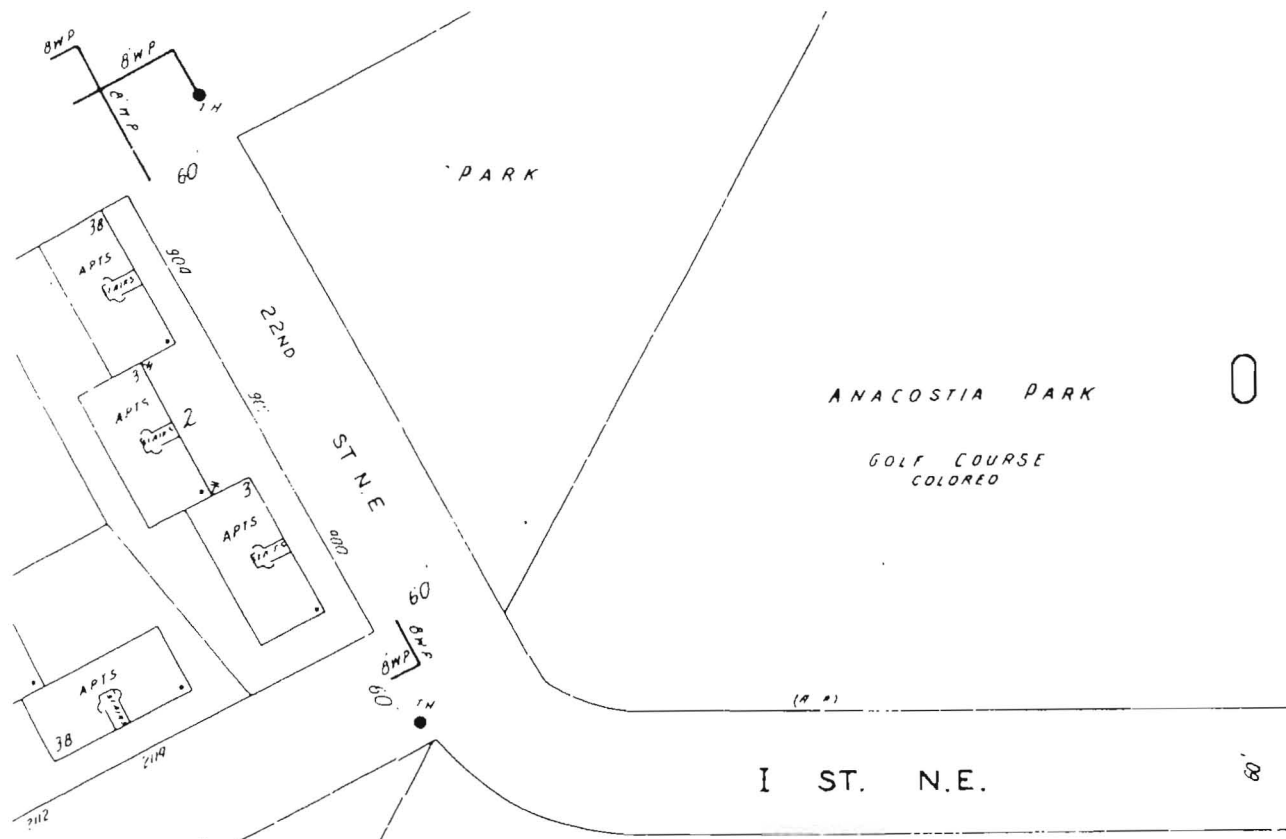
HUGH M. BROWNE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



SCALE 200 FEET = 1 INCH.

IN COST I  
RES-343  
SEC-F

SEE BAIST VOLUME TWO.



**EXHIBIT # 2**

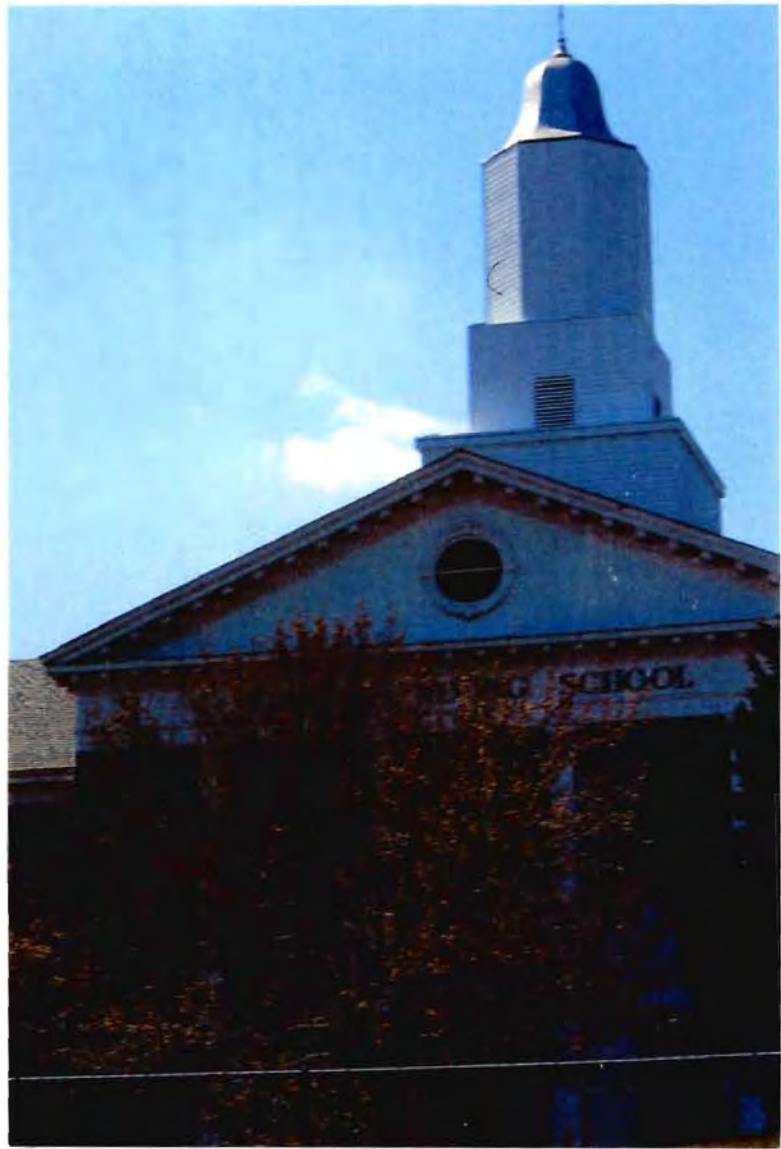
**CHARLES YOUNG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**MAP(S) AND PICTURES**



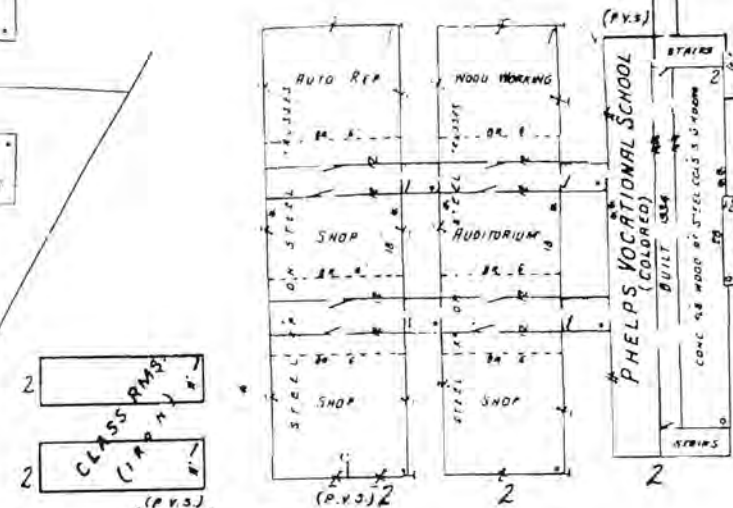




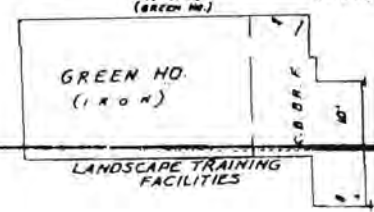
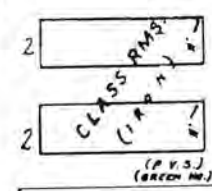
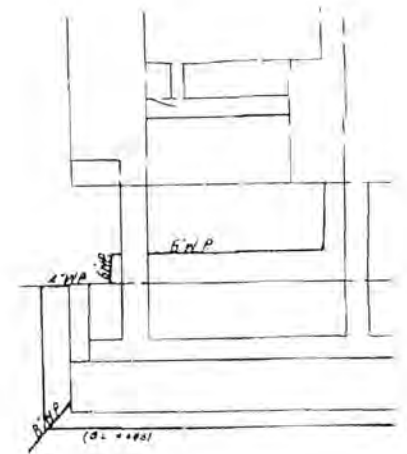




473

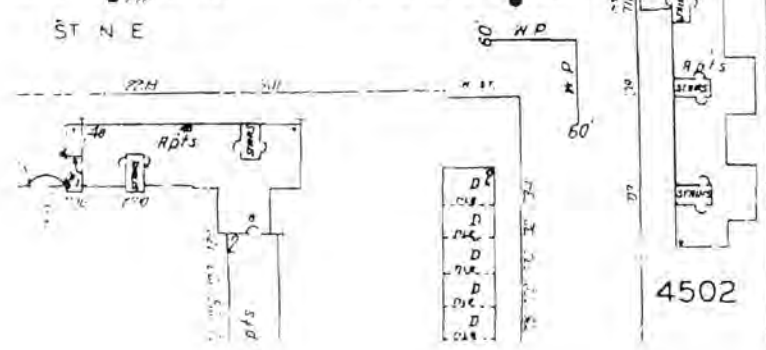
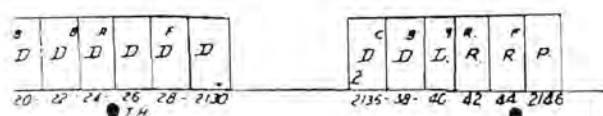
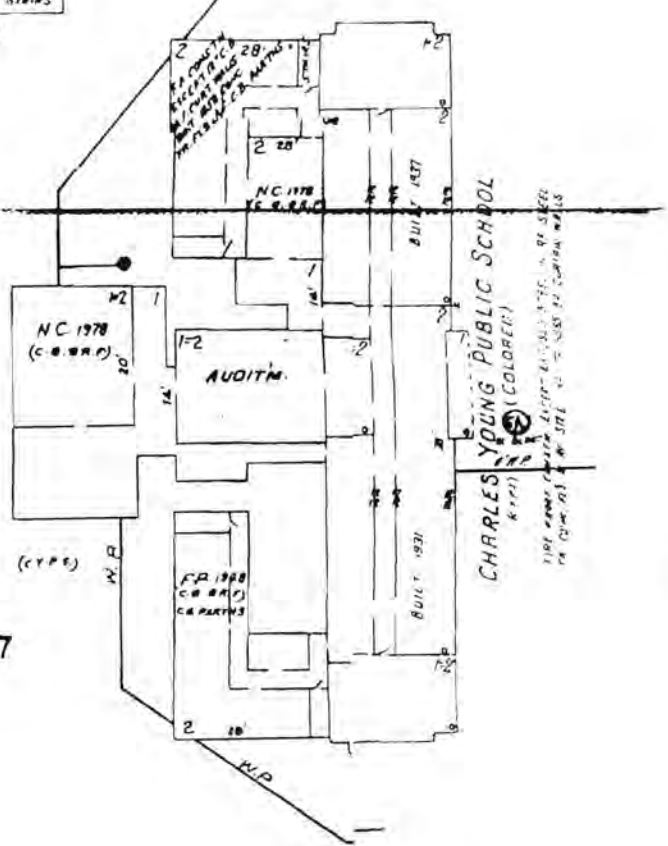


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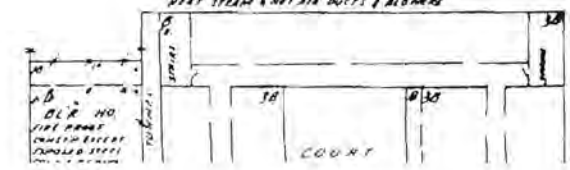
(FA)

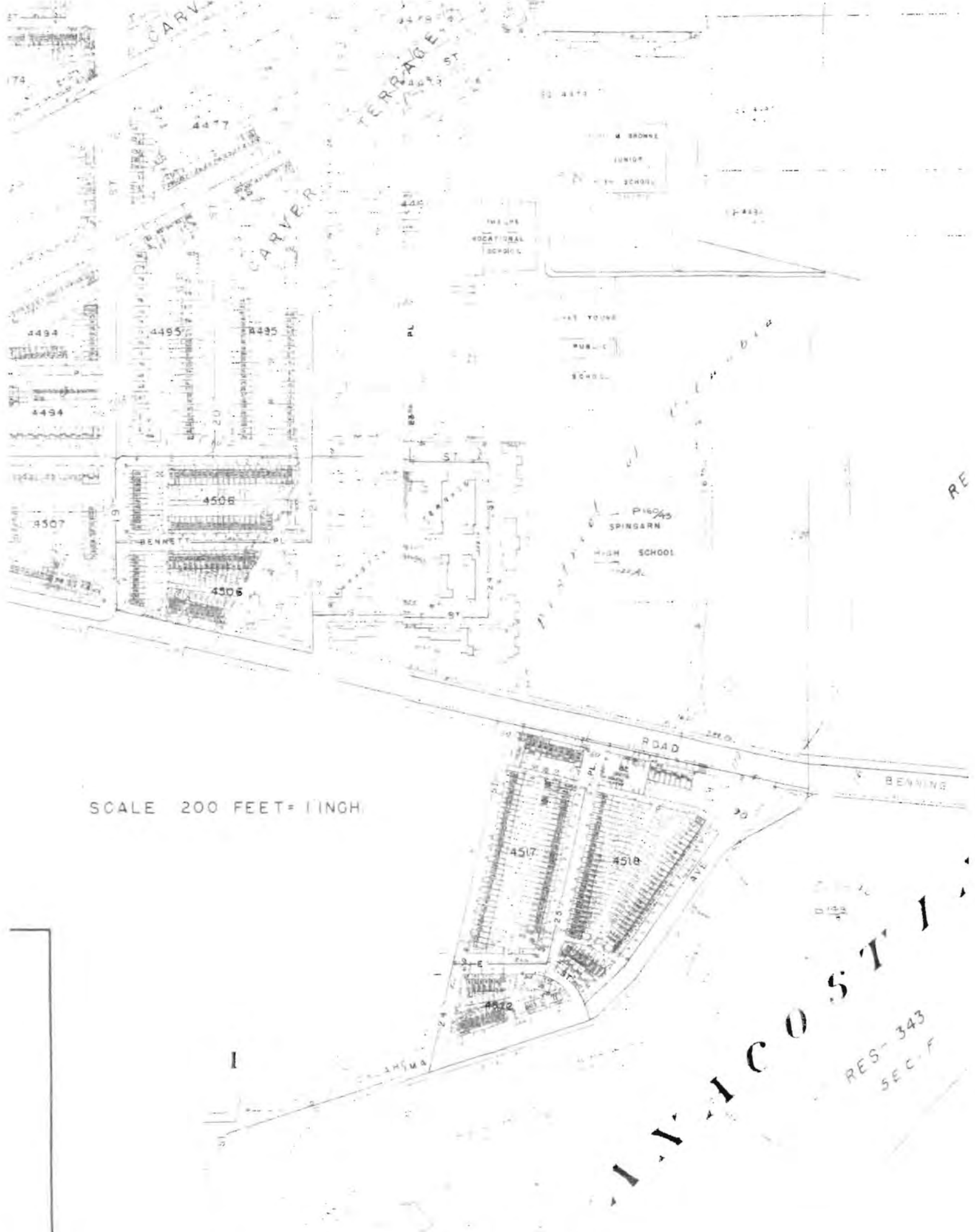
4497



SPINGARN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (COLORED)

WORKING 1961-62. CONC. FR. & T.S.  
 1/2" DIA. R.F. W/ STEEL BEAMS & TRUSSES  
 SHIPD COLS 15" CW. W/ BR. FACED CHERRY  
 WALLS HOLLYWOOD  
 W/ST STEAM & HOT AIR DUCTS & BLOWERS





SCALE 200 FEET = 1 INCH

ATLANTA  
RES-343  
SEC-F

SEE BAIST VOLUME TWO

**EXHIBIT # 3**

**PHELPS ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION, AND  
ENGINEERING (FORMERLY VOCATIONAL) HIGH  
SCHOOL**

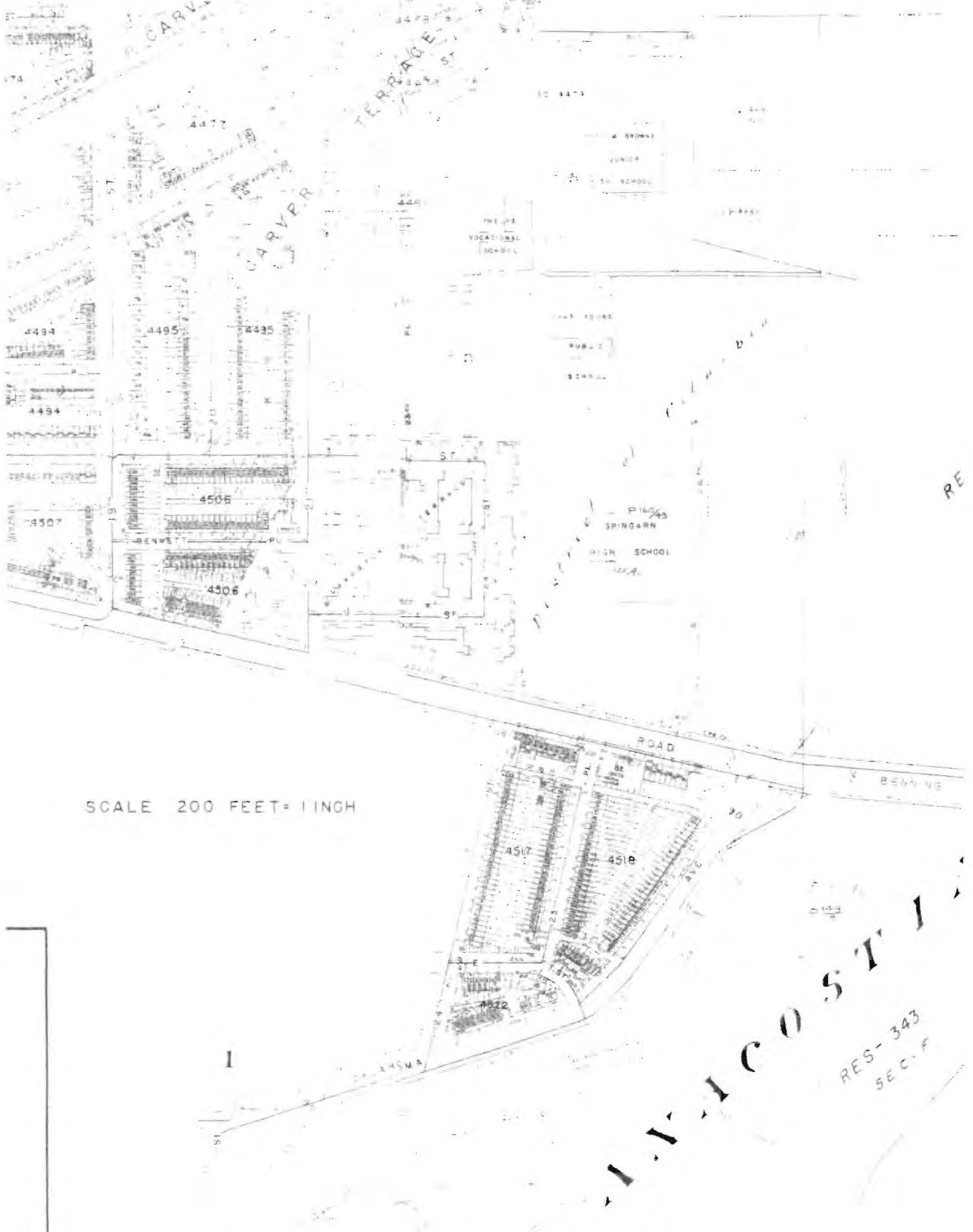
**MAP(S) AND PICTURES**









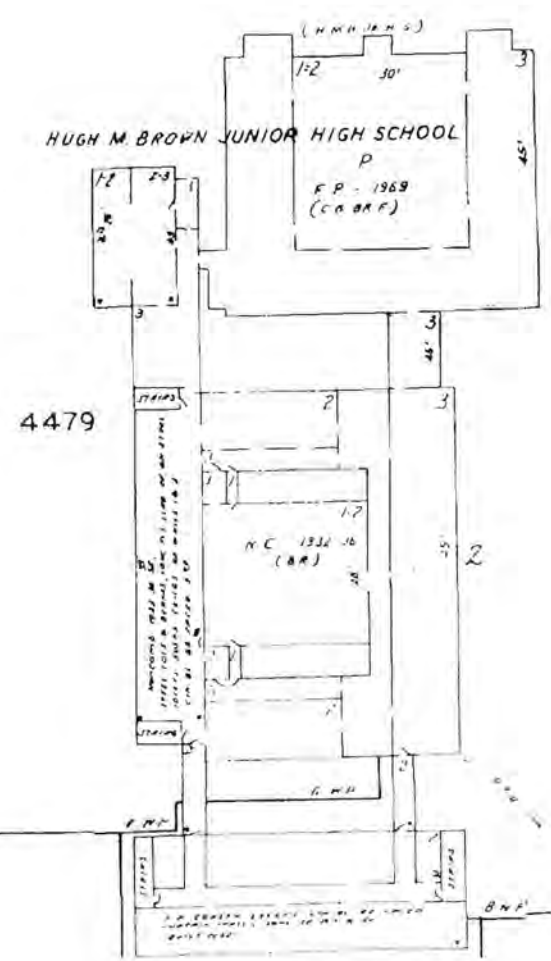
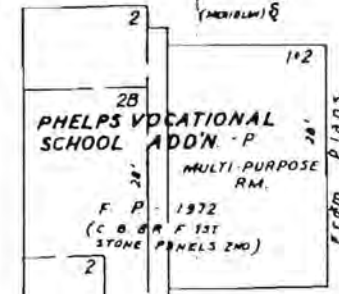
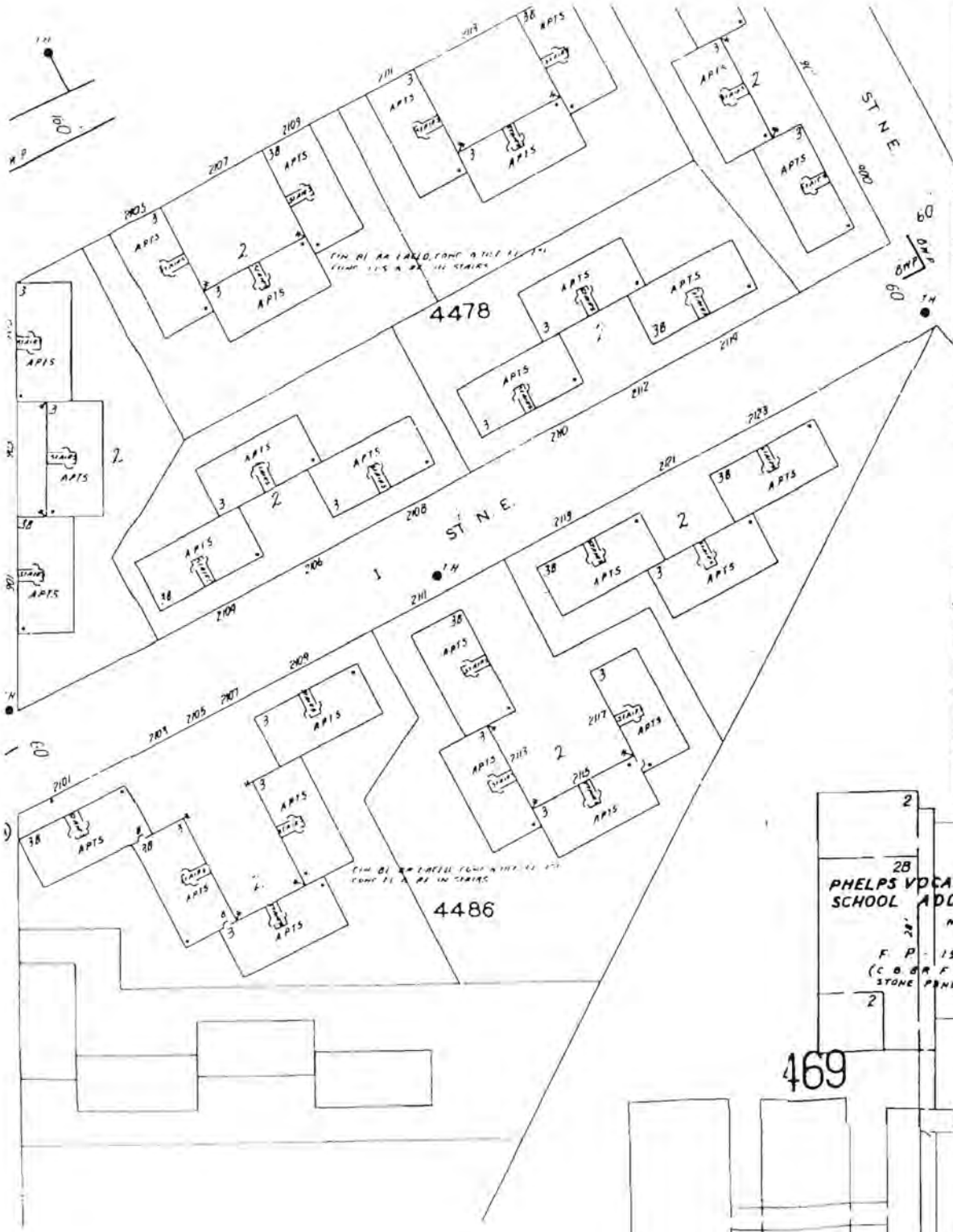


SCALE 200 FEET = 1 INCH

IN COST  
RES-343  
SEC-F

SEE BAIST VOLUME TWO





469

4479

4478

4486

ANACOSTIA PARK  
GOLF COURSE  
COLORED

I ST. N.E.

28  
PHELPS VOCATIONAL  
SCHOOL ADD'N - P  
MULTI-PURPOSE  
RM.  
F.P. - 1972  
(C.B.O.F. 1ST  
STONE PANELS 2ND)

HUGH M. BROWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
P  
F.P. - 1969  
(C.B.O.F.)

2. A FLOOR ELEVATION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

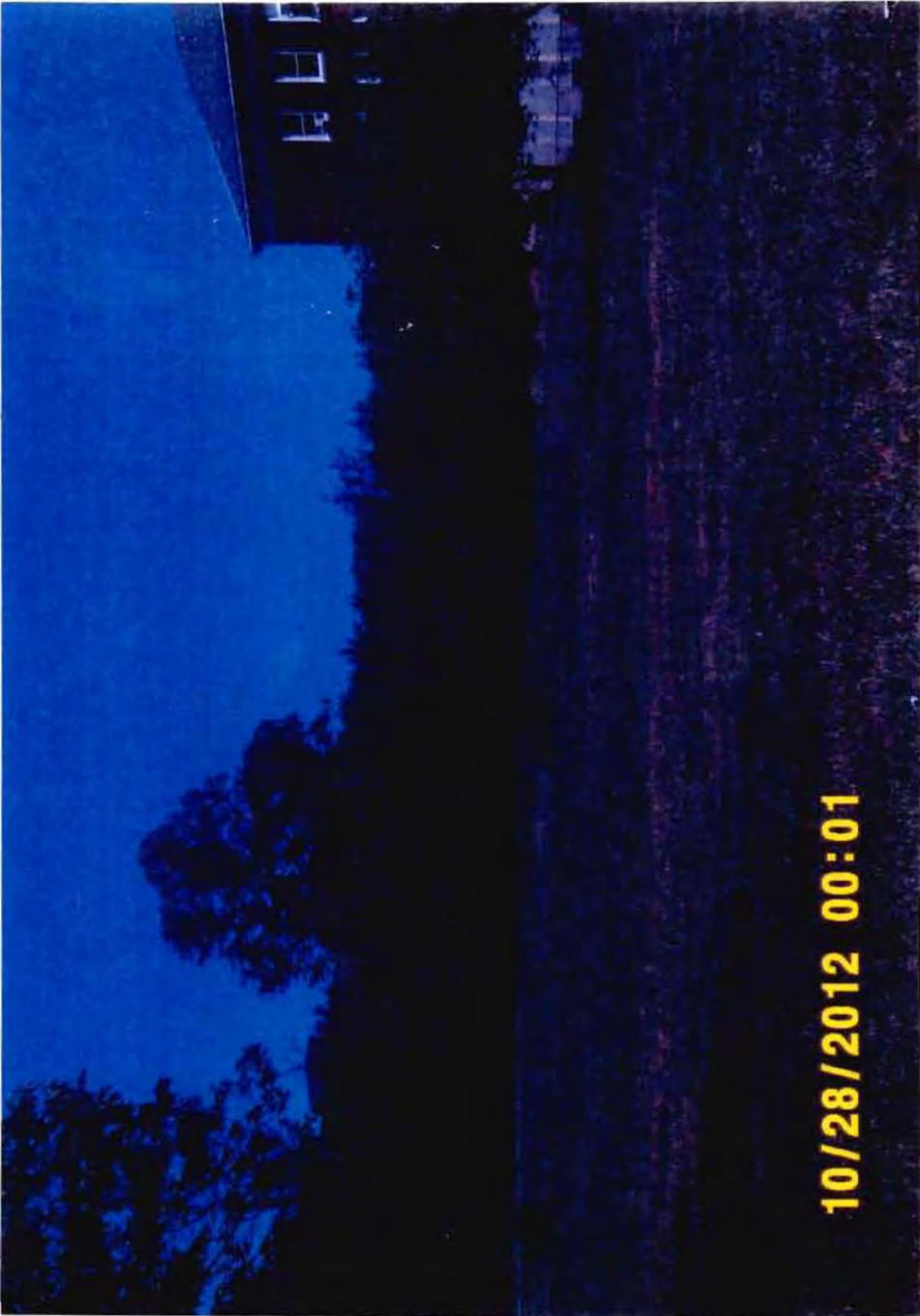
**EXHIBIT # 4**

SPINGARN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
MAP(S) AND PICTURES





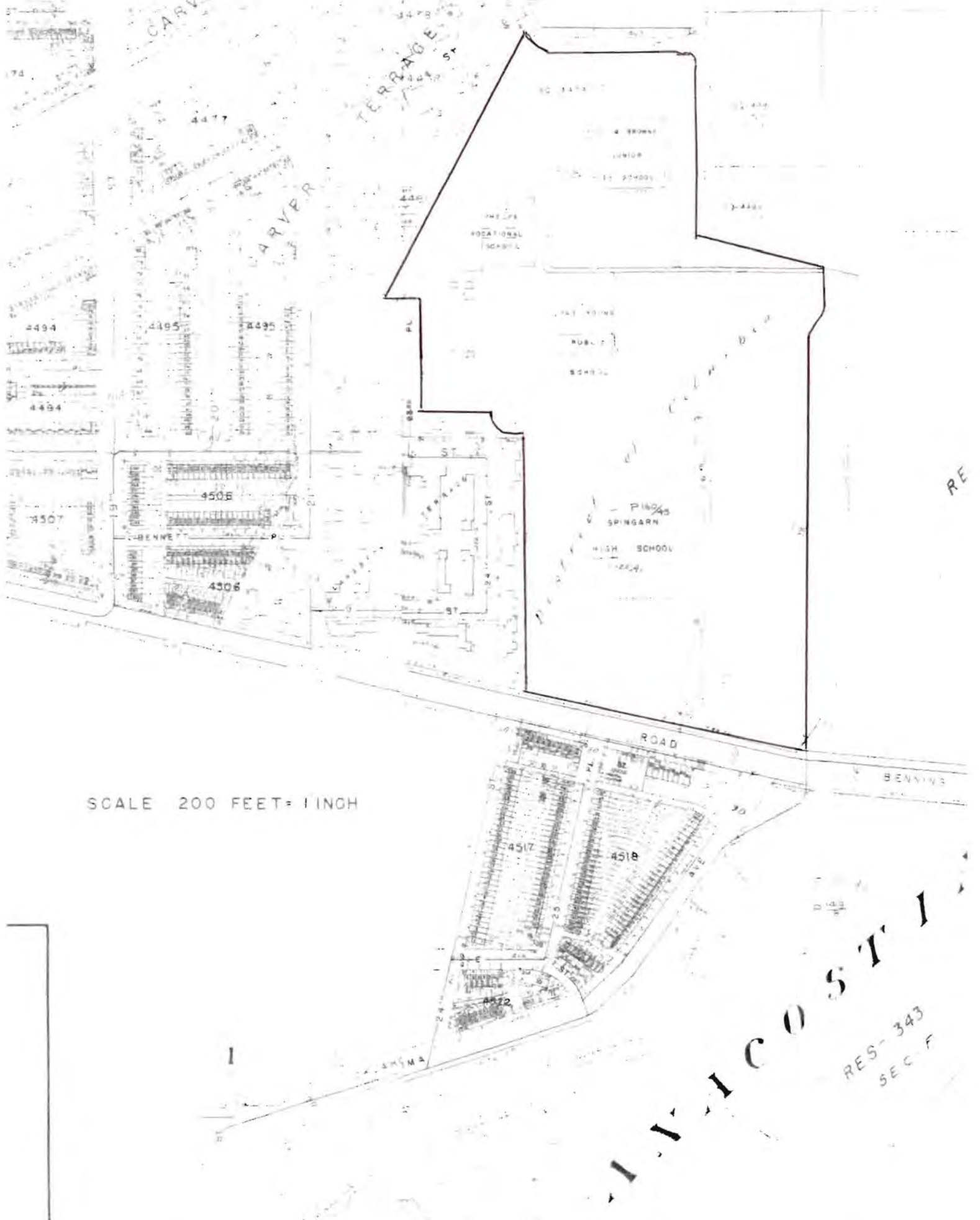








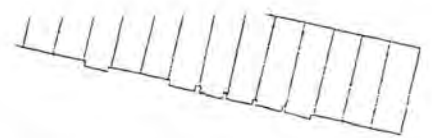




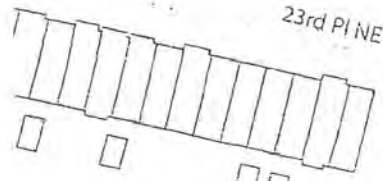
SCALE 200 FEET = 1 INCH

IN COST  
RES-343  
SEC F

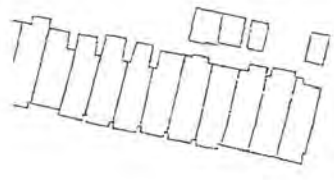
SEE BAIST VOLUME TWO



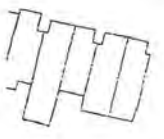
23rd PI NE



24th St NE



25th PI NE



Oklahoma Ave NE

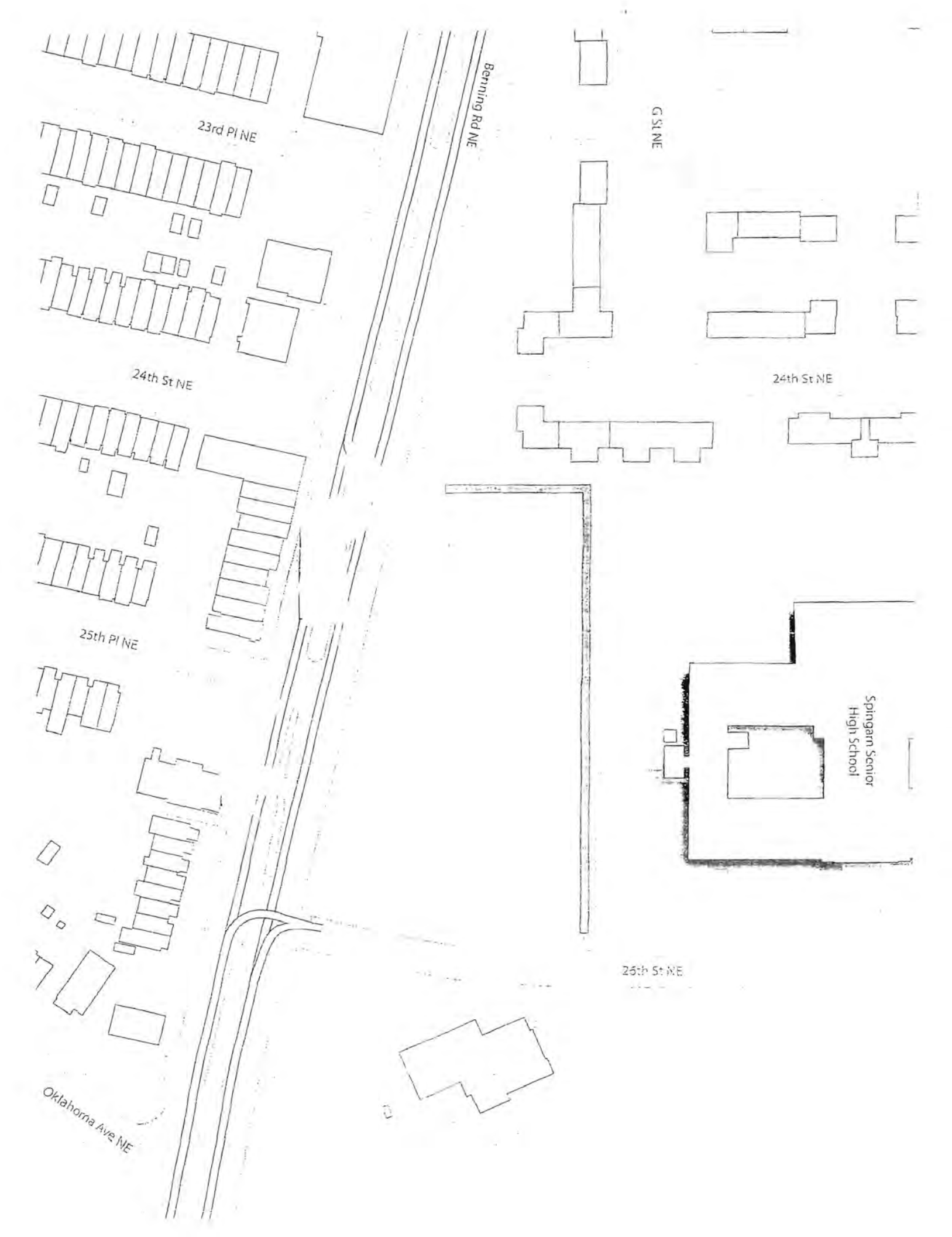
Berning Rd NE

G St NE

24th St NE

26th St NE

Spingarn Senior High School



## **Exhibit # 5**

**1950 Historic Photograph of District and USGS Map**

Open Spaces and Community Services, Monograph No. 4,  
June 1956, Washington, D.C.: Nat'l. Capital Park and Planning  
Commission

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
ARCHIVE OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



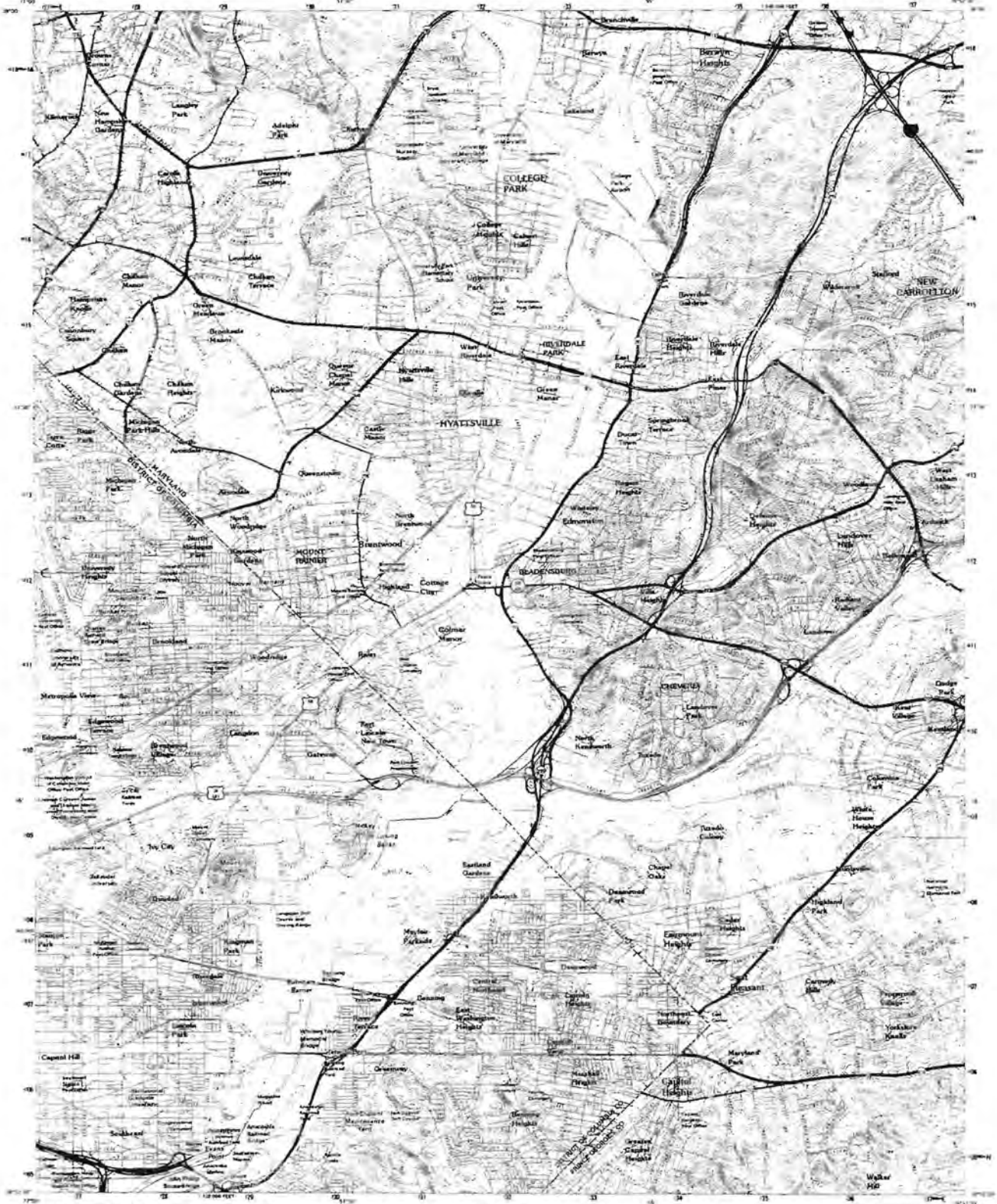
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SCIENCE AND RECREATION CENTER (1956) - Shows the Charles Young Elementary School, the Phyllis Kline School and the Max M. Brown Senior High School. Large center in the foreground (right) is a portion of the site built in all-tenement. The white square in foreground (left) is the site of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Large lot in foreground (left) is a site built in all-tenement. Photo by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The National Map  
US Topo

WASHINGTON EAST QUADRANGLE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-MARYLAND  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
with technical data of 1999-2008  
using the National Map Accuracy Standards of 1986 (NMAAS), Projection and  
1:250,000 scale. Contour Interval: 10 Feet. Date: 10/15/10  
1:250,000 scale. National Geographic Society of 1986

SCALE 1:24,000



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

|            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Interstate | State       | Local      |
| US Route   | County Road | Local Road |
| Trail      | Path        | Other      |

USGS  
Scale: 1:250,000  
Date: 10/15/10  
Projection: NAD 83  
Datum: NAD 83  
Units: Feet  
Contour Interval: 10 Feet  
Scale: 1:250,000  
Date: 10/15/10



|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Contour Interval | 10 Feet   |
| Projection       | NAD 83    |
| Datum            | NAD 83    |
| Units            | Feet      |
| Scale            | 1:250,000 |
| Date             | 10/15/10  |

WASHINGTON EAST, DC-MD  
2011