

1325 D Street, SE.

Square: 1042

Raze request approved: 2016

Construction dates: 1895, 1921, 1930, c. 1960

Architect: Office of the Building Inspector
(1895)

Owner: DC Public Schools

Builder:

Original use: school

Later use: International Graduate University

The buildings constructed in 1895 and 1921 are extant; the buildings constructed in 1930 and c. 1960 were demolished in 2016.

1895 building: The James Buchanan Secondary Learning Center was designed by the Office of the Building Inspector and was erected in 1895. This two-story masonry building sits on a raised foundation with a water table. The building is an interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style that was popular in the late nineteenth century. Constructed of brick and faced with a stretcher-bond brick veneer, the building is capped by a flat-on-hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. The flat portion of the roof is pierced by a large metal ventilator. Lower cross gables are located on the façade (west elevation) and rear (east elevation) and are capped by metal finials. The roof has an elaborate cornice that consists of wide overhanging eaves, an ogee-molded cornice with dentil molding, and ogee bed molding. A corbeled brick cornice compliments the metal cornice. The two interior brick chimneys, located on the western and eastern slopes of the roof, have plain caps. The façade is three structural bays wide and is framed by brick pilasters on the projecting bays. The central bay contains the main entry (not visible), which is sheltered by a one-story, one-bay portico with an arched brick opening that rests on heavy brick piers with cushioned capitals. The masonry porch is constructed of brick and has a flat roof (materials not visible). An ogee-molded cornice with dentil molding wraps around the porch. The basement level of the building is pierced by single-light openings that are covered with protective metal screens and capped with flat brick arches. First-story openings hold elongated 1/1 windows (materials not visible) with semi-circular three-light transoms. The windows are ornamented with round arches and rest on continuous brick sills. The second story holds 1/1, double-hung windows (materials not visible) with three-light, segmentally arched transoms. The south (side) elevation is five bays wide and is dominated by a centrally located two-story bowed bay which is capped by a low-pitched conical roof covered with asphalt shingles. The side has the same fenestration as the façade, with the exception of the bay, which is fenestrated with paired openings on the first and second stories. The openings in the bay hold elongated 1/1, double-hung windows with six-light transoms, stone lug lintels and stone sills. The original 1895 school building was enlarged on three separate occasions, in 1921, 1930 and ca. 1960.

1921 building: The 1921 addition is located directly north of the main building and is connected by a narrow hyphen. According to the 1928 Sanborn Map, the masonry addition is constructed of brick, had concrete floors, and a concrete roof.

1930 building (demolished): The 1930 addition was attached to the 1921 addition on the north elevation. According to the 1960 Sanborn Map, the addition had a twelve-inch brick walls and a concrete floor and roof.

c. 1960 building (demolished): The final addition was located west of the 1930 addition and was connected to the addition on the east by a hyphen. The one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame addition had been faced with six-course, American-bond brick. According to the 1960 Sanborn Insurance Map, the addition was constructed as an auditorium and gymnasium. It was capped by a gable roof and finished with overhanging eaves, an ogee molded cornice with plain frieze and

ogee-molded architrave. The western gable end had a closed pediment with a two-light ocular window in the tympanum. The opening had a header surround with keystones. The façade (west elevation) was three bays wide. The outermost bays were fenestrated with single window openings with flat brick arches and keystones. A concrete spandrel was located above each opening. The center bay was symmetrically fenestrated with three double-leaf paneled wood doors with a nine-light, wood-frame window above. These recessed openings were a Colonial Revival-style.

Source: CHRS Beyond the Boundaries, www.chrs.org>Historic Preservation

See also, Antoinette J. Lee, "Public School Buildings of the District of Columbia, 1904-1930" (September 1989).

Buchanan School 1930 building looking west



Buchanan School 1930 building (on left), looking east



Buchanan School c. 1960 auditorium, front elevation:



Buchanan School c. 1960 auditorium, side view facing D Street, SE, looking west:

